



DUCHESS of KINGSTON.

A NEW EDITION, with considerable ADDITIONS.

AUTHENTIC
PARTICULARS
OF THE
L I F E
OF THE LATE
DUCHESS OF KINGSTON,
DURING HER
CONNECTION WITH THE DUKE,
HER RESIDENCE AT
DRESDEN, VIENNA, St. PETERSBURGH, PARIS,
And several other Courts of EUROPE;
ALSO,
A FAITHFUL COPY OF HER SINGULAR WILL.

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ALDO BRUNO
YRABEL

PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS

PRINTED WITH THE FIRST EDITION.

THE demise of the DUCHESS OF KINGSTON being authenticated in England, the public prints contained various anecdotes respecting that lady, which were either wholly conjectural, or partially untrue. Observing this, the Author of the following DETAIL transmitted to the press some particulars, which he knew to be facts; intending them only as contributing, for a time, to diurnal amusement. He was solicited, however, to collect, and print them, in a different form; with a continuation, and such anecdotes as he could

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could furnish from authenticity. The publication, in this shape, is now submitted to the world—The time necessary to obtain, and bring from Paris, an attested copy of the WILL of the Duchefs, is humbly offered as an apology; and its being so truly an original, will, it is hoped, abundantly atone for the procrastination.

With respect to this edition it is necessary to observe, that the additions are very considerable; they are furnished by those who knew her well. It was thought most consistent with the plan of the first part to continue it undisturbed, and give these additions as a Supplement, in which state the reader will find them at the end of this volume, except a few notes.

A N

AUTHENTIC DETAIL,

&c. &c. &c.

AS the deaths of those who have eminently figured on the stage of Being, always occasion posthumous animadversion, the demise of so extraordinary a character as the late DUCHESS of KINGSTON will, there is not a doubt, give rise to a variety of details respecting her life and conduct. This is an age when the prying eye of curiosity penetrates the privacy of every distinguished person; neither the living nor the dead escape. The most trivial pursuits of the one, and the former table-talk of

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the

the other, are exposed and narrated, with all the pomp of importance, by some officious hand, engaged to furnish anecdote for the world. The author of the subsequent account professeth a departure from the customary mode of detailing puerilities of thought, expression, or habit. Such puerilities are but too prevalent, even where intellectual greatness most abounds; and it surely is becoming the office of candour to veil, rather than exemplify, the weaknesses of our nature.

ELIZABETH CHUDLEIGH was well descended, from an ancient family, in Devonshire. One of her male ancestors had a naval command in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and gallantly acquitted himself in the memorable defeat of the Spanish Armada. She was born in the year 1720, and her father was a Colonel in the army, and had a post in Chelsea college; but, dying when she was at an early age, his relict had the care of a daughter devolved on her, with little more than the usual pension allotted the widow
of

of an officer, for their mutual subsistence. Thus narrowed in fortune, Mrs. Chudleigh prudently availed herself of the best substitute for money—good connections. These the rank, situation, and habits of her husband, had placed within her power. She hired an house fit, at that less refined period of time, for a fashionable town residence; and she accommodated an inmate, for the purpose of adding to the scantiness of her income. Her daughter ELIZABETH was soon distinguished for a brilliancy of repartee, and for other qualities highly commendatory; because extremely pleasing. An opportunity for the display of them, to every advantage the possessor could reasonably desire, offered at a moment when fortune was benignantly disposed. The father of our present Sovereign had his court at Leicester House. Mr. PULTENEY, who then blazed as a meteor in the hemisphere of opposition, was honoured with the particular regard of the Prince of Wales. Miss CHUDLEIGH was introduced to Mr. PULTENEY; and he obtained for her, at the age of

about eighteen, the appointment of a Maid of Honour to the Princess of Wales. Mr. Pulteney did more than thus place her in an elevated station ; he endeavoured to cultivate her understanding. To him Miss CHUDLEIGH read ; and with him, when separated by distance, corresponded. Some improvement she obtained by this advantage, but the extreme vivacity of her nature prevented any considerable acquirements. Her maxim, on every subject, was, according to her own expression, to be “ short, clear, and surprising.” A voluminous author was, consequently, her aversion ; and a prolix story, however interesting, disgusted her, merely from the circumstance of prolixity. With such a pupil, Mr. PULTENEY could laugh, and in despair of his literary instruction making any deep impression on the mind of his adopted fair one, he changed the scene, and endeavoured to initiate her in the science of œconomy, instead of books. The value of a penny he had studied to a nicety ; one of his practical theorems was,

that

that a man with the price of a pot of porter in his pocket, should purchase only a pint, however extreme his thirst. This was the GREAT WILLIAM PULTENEY, who, like other patriots, without principle, degenerated into a Peer, without honour, and died without the vestige of regard for his memory being found in any breast that existed at the time of his departure.

The station to which Miss CHUDLEIGH was advanced, combined with many personal attractions, produced a number of admirers ; some of actual, others of expectant titles. Among the former, was his Grace the Duke of Hamilton, whom Miss Gunning had afterwards the good fortune to obtain for a consort. The Duke was passionately fond of Miss CHUDLEIGH, and the ardour with which he pressed his suit, attained the end he then wished to accomplish, which was, a solemn engagement on the part of Miss CHUDLEIGH, that on his return from making a tour, for which he was preparing, she would become his wife. There were reasons why this event should

not immediately take place ; that the engagement would be fulfilled at the specified time, both parties considered as a moral certainty. A mutual pledge was given and accepted ; the Duke commenced his proposed tour, and the parting condition was, that he should write by every opportunity. Miss CHUDLEIGH, of course, was reciprocally bounden to answer his Grace's Ovidian epistles. Thus the arrangement of fortune seemed to have united a pair who possibly might have experienced much happiness in the union ; for between the Duke of Hamilton and Miss Chudleigh, there was a similarity of disposition. They were not however to be joined. Distrust was to take place of unbounded confidence ; and they were mutually to be dissatisfied with each other, without either being culpable. Miss Chudleigh had an aunt whose name was Hanmer ; at her house Captain Hervey, the late Earl of Bristol, visited. To this gentleman Mrs. Hanmer became so exceedingly partial, that she favoured his views on her niece, and engaged her efforts

to

to effect, if possible, a matrimonial connection. There were two difficulties which would have been insurmountable, if not opposed by the fertile genius of a female. Miss Chudleigh disliked Captain Hervey, and she was betrothed to the Duke of Hamilton. To render the last nugatory, the letters of his Grace were intercepted by Mrs. Hanmer, and his supposed silence giving offence to her niece, she worked so successfully on her pride, as to induce her to abandon all thoughts of the lover whose passion she had cherished with delight. A conduct the reverse of that imputed to the Duke, was observed by Captain Hervey. He was all which assiduity could dictate, or attention perform. He had daily access to Miss Chudleigh, and each interview was artfully improved by the aunt, to the promotion of her own views. The letters of his Grace of Hamilton, which regularly arrived, were as regularly suppressed; until piqued beyond longer endurance, Miss Chudleigh was prevailed on to accept the hand of Captain Hervey,

and by a private marriage, to ensure a participation of his future honours and fortune. The ceremony was performed in a private chapel adjoining the country mansion of Mr. Merrill. The only surviving witness is a woman considerably advanced in years, who was a servant in the family*.

On a review of life, every reflecting mind may easily trace the predominant good, or evil experienced, to some wilful error, or injudicious mistake, which operated as a determinate cause, and gave the colour to our fate. This was the case with Miss Chudleigh; for, the hour in which she be-

* This marriage was solemnized in the year 1744, at Lainston, in the county of Southampton; a parish in which there was only the house of Mr. Merrill. The certificate runs as follows:

“ Marriages, Births, and Burials in the parish of
 “ Lainston. 2d of August, Mrs. Susanna Merril,
 “ relict of John Merrill, Esq. buried. 4th of
 “ August, 1744, married the Honourable Augustus
 “ Hervey, Esq. in the parish of Lainston, to Miss
 “ Elizabeth Chudleigh, daughter of Colonel Thomas
 “ Chudleigh, late of Chelsea College, deceased. By
 “ me, Thomas Arnis.”

came

came united with Captain Hervey, proved to her the origin of every subsequent unhappiness. There is a compliment to the dead, exacted by usage; conformably to which we treat their names with reverence, whose deeds deserve the severest reproach. On this principle it can only be said, that the connubial rites were attended with consequences, injurious to health, as well as unproductive of fecundity; and that, from the night following the day on which the marriage was solemnized, Miss Chudleigh resolved never to have farther connection with her husband. To prevail on him not to claim her as his wife, required all the art of which she was mistress. The best dissuasive argument was, the loss of her situation as Maid of Honour, should the Marriage be publicly known. The finances of Captain Hervey not enabling him, at the time to compensate such a loss, most probably operated as a prudential motive for his yielding to the intreaties of his wife. He did so yield; but in a manner which, at times, indicated a

strong desire to play the tyrant. In fact, as the departed DUCHESS frequently expressed the situation of her feelings, " Her misery commenced from the arrival of Captain Hervey in England, and the greatest joy she experienced was the intelligence of his departure." Hence, whilst the ship in which he was to sail, remained at Spithead, or in the Downs, she was tremblingly alive with apprehension that the destination might be countermanded. A fair wind out of the Channel, was the soother of her mind; and she was always extremely inquisitive as to the duration of the voyage, or cruize; as well as the probable intervening accidents which might still longer protract it. Such were some of the immediate consequences of an union, brought about by artifice, effected clandestinely, and originating, in the one party, from pique, in the other, from a more reprehensible passion. The remote consequences of this most unfortunate assimilation of body, not mind, will necessarily appear in the subsequent detail. Let it be hoped, for the happiness of

of the more amiable sex, that the case of Miss Chudleigh, in one sense, is not applicable to many of them. To her, matrimony was the beginning of sorrows.

Miss CHUDLEIGH, now Mrs. HERVEY, a maid in appearance, a wife in disguise, seemed to those who judge from externals only, to be in an enviable situation. Of the higher circles she was the attractive centre, of gayer life the invigorating spirit. Her royal mistress not only smiled on, but actually approved her. A few friendships she cemented, and conquests she made in such abundance, that, like Cæsar in a triumph, she had a train of captives at her heels. Yet, with all this display of happiness, she wanted that without which there is not happiness on earth—peace of mind. Her husband, quieted for a time, grew obstreperous, as she became more the object of admiration. He felt his right, and was determined to assert it. She endeavoured, by letter, to negotiate him into peace; but her efforts succeeded not. He demanded a private interview; and enforcing his de-

mands by threats of exposure in case of refusal, she complied through compulsion. The meeting was at the apartment of Captain Hervey; a black servant only in the house. On entering the room where he sat, the first thing done was to prevent her retreat, by locking the door. What passed may be better imagined than expressed. The bosom of a wife burning with indignant rage for past injuries sustained in her health, yet obliged to smother the flame of resentment, and assume the mildness of complacency. On the other hand, an husband, feeling himself the Lord Paramount over a defenceless woman, whose hopes he had blasted, whose person he had defiled. This, as the Duchess, when speaking of it, with tears in her eyes, used to say was "an assignation with a vengeance." It ended like every interview which she had with Captain Hervey, fatally for her. He would not permit her to retire without consenting to that commerce, delectable only when kindred souls melt into each other with the soft embrace. The fruit of this meeting

was,

was, the addition of a boy to the human race. Cæsar Hawkins became the professional confidant on this occasion. Miss Chudleigh removed to Chelsea for a change of air, and returned to Leicester-house, perfectly recovered from her indisposition. The infant soon sunk into the arms of Death, leaving only the tale of his existence to be related *.

While

* The following is the evidence which *Cæsar Hawkins* gave, on the Trial of the Duchess of Kingston, relative to the birth of the child, and the marriage of *Miss Chudleigh* with *Mr. Harvey*.

Question. Do you, or do you not, know that a child was the fruit of that marriage?

Cæsar Hawkins. Yes, I do.

Question. Can you tell their Lordships about what time the child was born, and where?

Answer. About the time I cannot tell.

Question. Inform their Lordships about what time this might be?

Answer. I should suppose about thirty years ago.

Question. Where was this child born?

Answer. At Chelsea, near to Chelsea College.

Question. Was this marriage (with Mr. Hervey) and the birth of that child, at that time kept a secret?

Answer. I was told so.

Question.

While these and a variety of other circumstances were passing between Miss Chudleigh and her husband, the Duke of Hamilton arrived from his travels. He lost not a moment in paying homage to the idol of his affections, and in having the mystery of all his letters being unanswered, explained. Flighty, as in other respects he was, to Miss Chudleigh his constancy remained unshaken. The interview developed the whole, and placed Mrs. Hammer in her true light, that of the authoress of mischief. But, as the palliation of past evil, the Duke made a generous tender of his hand, where his heart was already centered. The rejection of this offer, which it was impossible to accept, and almost as impossible to explain the reason why it was rejected, occasioned emotions in the Duke, which the heart can feel better than the pen explain. Still more; Miss Chudleigh was compelled to prohibit

Question. Do you know what is since become of that child?

Answer. I believe it died a little time afterwards.

his

his visits. The sequel of his conduct is known. His Grace and a noble Earl agreed to club their follies, to keep each other in countenance, and they both married two Hibernian Misses, who, in the hour of good fortune, had luckily brought their stock in trade to a market, where beauty frequently fetches an excellent price.

The Duke of Hamilton, thus refused by Miss Chudleigh; the late Duke of Ancafter, and several other nobles experienced a similar fate. This astonished the fashionable world, and the mother of Miss Chudleigh, who was a total stranger to the private marriage of her daughter, reprehended her folly in proper terms. At once to be freed, at least for a time, from the embarrassments which environed her, Miss Chudleigh determined on travel as the mean. She embarked for the Continent; chose the circle of Germany for her tour. She resided some time at Berlin, then went to Dresden; and as she aspired to the acquaintance of crowned heads, she was gratified by the late King of Prussia, who not only con-

versed,

versed, but corresponded with her. It is not by this meant that there was any thing more in his letters than what the politeness of a gentleman dictated to a lady, in spirit and enterprize above the level of her sex. The epistles of Frederic, which consisted of about four lines, written in a scarcely legible hand, served Miss Chudleigh to gratify her vanity by talking about. But in the Electress of Saxony she found a friend, whose affection for her continued to the latest period of life. The Electress was a woman of sense, honour, virtue and religion. Her letters were replete with kindness. While her hand distributed presents to Miss Chudleigh out of the treasury of abundance, her heart was interested for her happiness. This she evinced, pending the prosecution for bigamy, for at that time a letter from the Electress to the Duchess, contained the following passage:—" You
 " have long experienced my love ; my re-
 " venue, my protection ; my every thing
 " you may command. Come, then, my
 " dear life, to an asylum of peace. Quit a
 " country,

“ country, where, if you are bequeathed
 “ a cloak, some pretender may start up, and
 “ ruin you by law to prove it your property.
 “ Let me have you at Dresden.” This passage is literally rendered from the French.

Miss Chudleigh returning from the Continent, Lord Howe, who signalized himself in America the war before last, became her suitor. Matrimony was out of the question; but an intimacy subsisting, the world then talked, as the world now talks, a great deal of nonsense in a most absurd style. This garrulity, however, neither lessened the consequence of Miss Chudleigh, nor interrupted her amusements. She ran the career of pleasure, enlivened the court circles, each year became more ingratiated with the mistress whom she served; led fashions; played whist with Lord Chesterfield; rioted with Lady Harrington and Miss Ashe; figured at a masquerade, and laughed at the lover whom she chose not to favour with her smiles, with all the confounding grace of a woman of quality. The reflection put off, however, for the day, too frequently

quently intruded an unwelcome visitor at night. Captain Hervey, the husband, like a perturbed spirit, was eternally crossing the path trodden by his wife. Was she in the rooms at Bath, he was sure to be there. At a rout, ridotto, or ball, there was this fell destroyer of peace, embittering every pleasure, and blighting the fruit of happiness by the pestilential malignancy of his presence. As a proof of his disposition to annoy, he menaced his wife with an intimation that he would disclose the marriage to the Princess of Wales. In this Miss Chudleigh anticipated him, by being the first relater of the circumstance. Her royal mistress heard and pitied her. She continued her patronage to the hour of her death. At last a stratagem was either suggested, or it occurred to Miss Chudleigh, at once to deprive Captain Hervey of the power to claim her as his wife. The clergyman who married them was dead. The register book was in careless hands. An handsome compliment was paid for the inspection, and, while the person in whose custody it was,

listened

listened to an amusing story, Miss Chudleigh tore out a part of the register. Thus imagining the business accomplished, she, for a time, bid defiance to her husband, whose taste for the softer sex, yielding to a passion of an opposite nature, occasioned Miss Chudleigh a cessation of inquietude. Her better fate influenced the heart of a man in her favour, who was the exemplar of amiability. This was the late Duke of Kingston.

The life, an outline of which is now submitting to the public judgment, was of such a singular commixture of propensities, as to afford abundant matter for improving reflection. That there is in the human breast a ruling passion, by which the will is influenced, and consequently the judgment finally determined, must be evident to every inquisitive mind. This passion it is, which, serving as the spring of action, gives rise to a conduct perfectly regular, or wholly eccentric, as the producing cause is more or less bounded by some higher motive. Hence the necessity there is for some super-induced

induced principle, as a check to the ruling passion, whatever it be. Where this is wanting, all is confusion; errors engender substantial ills, and that portion of our existence contracted within the narrow span of time, is doomed to unhappiness.

The subject of these anecdotes was among the too many eminent instances of this. Settled principles she had none. Not that her deficiency arose so much from viciousness, as from ignorance. Her mind, to borrow Mr. Locke's figure, was a mere *tabula rasa*, a blank as to every thing beyond mortality. All with her centered in self and sensation. Her ruling passion was displayed in the acquirement of any species of property, the possession of which gratified vanity. This she hoarded with the gripe of a miser, or dissipated with the profusion of a spendthrift, when flattered by knavery or artifice into a mood of extravagance. The diamonds she had amassed were her travelling companions; and she was always ready to defend them, with a brace of pistols, at the hazard of her life. To her jewel box her orisons
were

were as regularly paid, as a devotee is found constant to her matins. She latterly flumbered over abundance, nor was she ever awake to that glorious feeling which actuates natures truly noble, and teaches them to consider a superflux of wealth as the donation of heaven, granted in trust for the relief of indigence, the soothing of calamity, or the reward of merit. That the late Duchess of Kingston had early in life the power of being the distributor of much good, is certain; to obtain the means was her principal object, to neglect the end, her general habit. Her cunning, for of wisdom she possessed not a ray, was solely directed to gain. Fortunately for society, cunning is more frequently defeated than successful. This was so remarkably experienced by our heroine, that a relation of the case may serve as a moral lesson to the world—Thus, then, runs the story:

In the natural course of events, Captain Hervey succeeded to the Earldom of Bristol. With rank there was fortune, and both were most inviting objects to a mind sordid
and

and vain. When a succession to the family honours and revenue became highly probable, a short period before it took place, Miss Chudleigh went to the house of Mr. Merril, in whose chapel she was married. Her ostensible reason was a jaunt out of town—Her real design was to procure, if possible, the insertion of her marriage, with Captain Hervey in the book which, to destroy the written evidence of that marriage, she had formerly mutilated. With this view she condescended to every artifice, and dealt out promises with a liberal hand. The officiating clerk, who like Scrub in the play, was a person of various avocations, was to be promoted to the extent of his wishes. The book was managed by the Lady to her content, and she returned to London secretly exulting in the excellence and success of her machination. She did, it is true, succeed, but it was in laying the ground-work of that very evidence, which, in conjunction with oral testimony, operated afterwards to her conviction and disgrace. Here was cunning, despicable
cunning,

cunning, enveloping the possessor in a net of her own fabricating. No wonder when her hour of degradation arrived, that she fell unpitied.

Thus conditioned was Miss CHUDLEIGH, when the DUKE of KINGSTON became her admirer. Re-married, as it were, by her own stratagem, the participation of ducal honours became legally impossible. The chains of wedlock, which the lady had been so industrious in shaking off, or putting on, as seemed most promotive of her avarice, were now galling to an excess. Every advice was taken, without the means of liberation being in the power of human device to suggest. To acquiesce in that which could not be remedied, seemed the dernier resort. The DUKE of KINGSTON's attachment was ardent, and truly sincere. He mingled the friend with the lover; nor was there an endearing title under Heaven he would not have assumed, could but the assumption have advanced the happiness of Miss CHUDLEIGH. For a series of years they cohabited, yet with such observance

of external decorum, that although their intimacy was a moral, it was not an evidenced certainty. That the felicity of the Duke was in any means promoted by this union, cannot be asserted consistent with truth. The parties were diametrically opposite characters. The Duke was mild, gracious, unassuming, and bashful in the extreme. He had every grace requisite in a man of rank. Ostentation he so much detested, that it was his custom, in perambulating the streets, to fold back the front of his coat, so as to hide the star; and whenever by accident it was discovered, the disclosure caused an involuntary blush. His Lady possessed very different qualities. In vociferating anger she could fairly boast an alliance with Juno. Ostentatious she was to an excess, and so little sublimed were her feelings, that the grossest flattery was an animating cordial to her spirits. It revived her when more rational succours failed of effect. Thus contrarily gifted and disposed, the Duke and Miss Chudleigh were frequently on discordant terms; but she had a
strong

strong hold of his mind, and the use she made of it was, finally to ruin herself. The Earl of Bristol, by time and attachments, had grown so weary of his connubial state, as to be cordially desirous of a change. At first, when sounded on the subject of a divorce, he had used this expression, "I will see the — at the devil, before her vanity shall be gratified by being a Duchess." Afterwards, however, there being a lady to whom he wished to offer his hand, he so altered his tone, as to express a readiness to consent to any possible means of annihilating the union subsisting between him and Miss Chudleigh. The civilians were consulted—a jactitation suit was instituted. The evidence who could prove the marriage was kept back.

Lord Bristol failing, as it was designed he should fail, in substantiating the marriage, a sentence of the court, pronouncing the nullity of the claim, concluded the business. The object now to be obtained was, legal opinion as to the operative power of such a sentence; and the civilians, highly

C tenacious

tenacious of the rights of their own courts, adjudged the decree not liable to be disturbed by the interference of any extrinsic court of judicature. Under conviction of perfect safety, the marriage between his Grace of Kingston, and Miss Chudleigh, was publicly solemnized*. The favours

* The marriage ceremony was performed on the 8th day of March, 1769, in the church of Saint Margaret, Westminster. The following is a copy of the register :

“ No. 92. Marriages in March, 1769. The Most
 “ Noble *Evelyn Pierrepont*, Duke of Kingston, a Bachelor, and the *Honourable Elizabeth Chudleigh*, of
 “ Knightsbridge, in Saint Margaret’s, Westminster,
 “ a *Spinster*, were married by special licence of the
 “ Archbishop of Canterbury, this 8th of March,
 “ 1769, by me, *Samuel Harper*, of the British Museum.

“ This marriage was solemnized between us,

“ KINGSTON.

“ ELIZABETH CHUDLEIGH.

“ *In the presence of*

“ MASHAM,	“ J. ROSS MACKYE,
“ WILLIAM YEO,	“ E. R. A. LAROCHE,
“ A. K. F. GILBERT,	“ ARTHUR COLLIER,
“ J. LAROCHE, JUN.	“ C. MASHAM.”
“ ALICE YEO,	

were

were worn by the highest personages in the kingdom*; and, during the life of the Duke, not any attempt was made to dispute the legality of the procedure. The fortune was not entailed; his Grace had, therefore, the option to bequeath it as seemed best to his inclination. The heirs since, were then expectants; their claims rested on hope, not certainty. The Duchess, for so she is now to be styled, figured without apprehension of control. She was raised to the pinnacle of her fate, and for a very few years did she enjoy that which the chicanery of her life had been directed to accomplish, the parade of title without that honour which only can ennoble. To impede her in the career of enjoyment, and finally put an end to all her greatness, the DUKE of KINGSTON died. His will, excluding from every benefit an elder, and preferring a younger nephew as his heir in tail, gave rise to a prosecution of the

* Their present Majesties wore favours on the occasion.

Duchess, which ended in the beggary of her prosecutor, and the exile of herself.

The demise of the DUKE of KINGSTON was not unexpected by those who observe the several premonitions of the King of Terrors. A paralytic stroke is among the harbingers of mortal dissolution, which is sure to be followed by the event announced. The Duke lingered but a short time, and that time was employed by his consort in journeying his Grace about, under the futile idea, by change of air and situation, of retarding the irreversible decree of Omnipotence. At last, when real danger seemed to threaten, even in the opinion of the Duchess, she dispatched one of her swiftest-footed messengers to her solicitor, the late Mr. Field, of the Temple, requiring his immediate attendance. He obeyed the summons, and arriving at the house, the Duchess privately imparted her wishes, which were, that he would procure the Duke to execute, and be himself a subscribing witness, to a will, made without his knowledge, and more to the taste of the Duchess,

Duchefs, than the one completed. The difference between thefe two wills was this : The Duke had bequeathed the income of his eftates to his reliét, during her life, and exprefsly under condition of her continuing in a ftate of widowhood. Whether his Grace, in thus reftaining her, did it in order to prevent the difhonour of his memory, by the introduction of an improper fucceffor ; or, whether he acted from a confcioufnefs of her extreme liability, with all her manœuvring, to be impofed on, muft be left to conjecture. Perfectly fatisfied, however, as the Duchefs pretended to be with whatever appeared to be the inclination of her deareft Lord, ſhe could not reſiſt the ſeeming opportunity of carrying her ſecret wiſhes into effect. She did not relifh the Temple of Hymen being ſhut againſt her. Earneſtly, therefore, did ſhe preſs Mr. Field to have her own will immediately executed, which left her at perfect liberty to give her hand to the conqueror of her heart. She was only, by ſome years, on the wrong ſide of fifty ; and the celebrated

Ninon de l'Enclos bloomed at threescore, and captivated at seventy. Here was an example which every amorous grandmother might have in view; and extremely cruel would it be to restrict ladies, ancient only in years, from matrimony, as the mean to keep their blood within the bounds of decorum. The Duchess, in her anxiety to have the restraint shaken off, had nearly deprived herself of every benefit derivable from the demise of the Duke. When Mr. Field was introduced to his Grace, his intellects were perceptibly affected. He knew the friends who approached him, and a transient knowledge of their persons was the only indication of mental exertion which seemed to be left him. Field very properly remonstrated on the impropriety of introducing a will, for execution, to a man in such a state. His remonstrance occasioned a severe reprehension from the Duchess, who reminded him, that he ought only to obey the instructions of his employer. Feeling, however, for his professional character, he positively refused either to tender the will,

will, or be in any manner concerned in endeavouring to procure the execution. With this refusal, he quitted the house, the Duchess beholding him with an indignant eye, as the annoyer of her scheme, when, in fact, by not complying with it, he proved her temporal Saviour : for, had the will she proposed, been executed, it would most indubitably have been set aside. The heirs would, consequently, have excluded the relief from every thing, except that to which the right of dower entitled her ; and, the lady in this, as in other respects, would have been ruined by her own stratagem.

Soon after the frustration of this attempt, the DUKE of KINGSTON yielded to the stroke of fate. His will divulged, the funeral rites performed, and all other obsequial matters being properly adjusted, the Duchess embarked for the Continent, proposing Rome for her temporary residence. GANGANELLI at that time filled the Papal See. From the moderation of his principles, the consequent tolerant spirit which he, on every occasion, displayed, and the

marked attention he bestowed on the English, he acquired the title of the Protestant Pope. To such a character, the Duchess was a welcome visitor. Ganganelli treated her with the utmost civility, gave her, as a Sovereign Prince, many privileges, and she was lodged in the palace of one of the Cardinals. Her vanity thus gratified, her Grace, in return, treated the Romans with a public spectacle. She had built an elegant pleasure yacht; a gentleman, who had served in the navy, was the commander; under her orders, he sailed for Italy, and the vessel, at considerable trouble and some expence, was conveyed up the Tiber. The sight of an English yacht there was uncommon. It drew the people in crowds to the shore, and the applause ran general through the city. This seemed to be the æra of festivity and happiness; but while the bark floated triumphantly on the undulations of the Tiber, a business was transacting in England which put an end to all momentary blifs. Mrs. CRADOCK, a woman now living, who, in the capacity of a domestic,

domestic, had been present during the ceremony of marriage between Miss CHUDLEIGH and LORD BRISTOL, found herself, so reduced in circumstances, that she applied to Mr. FIELD for pecuniary relief. He saw her, and most injudiciously refused her every succour. In vain she urged her distress, and the absence of the Duchess, who was the only person on whose munificence she had the justest claim. FIELD was deaf to her entreaties: she then told him what was in her power to discover. To many circumstances which she related, he was an entire stranger, and he affected to discredit the rest. Mrs. CRADOCK ended the interview with a menace, that she would make the relations of the DUKE of KINGSTON acquainted with every important particular.—FIELD set her at defiance, and, thus exposed to penury, she was exasperated to vengeance, and instantly set about the work of ruin.

HIS GRACE of KINGSTON had borne to his grave, a marked dislike of one of his nephews. His private reason was well

known to his confidential friends. Mr. EVELYN MEADOWS had been in, and went out of, the Navy. Let it suffice to say, that the Duke chose him not for his heir. He was one of the sons of LADY FRANCES PIERREPONT, sister of the DUKE of KINGSTON, consequently his nephew—but his Grace liked him not. The gentleman, excluded his presumptive heirship, joyfully received the information that a method of doing himself substantial justice yet remained. He saw Mrs. CRADOCK—heard the detail of evidence which she offered—and, perfectly satisfied as to every iota of the relation being true, he, assisted by legal friends, had a Bill of Indictment for Bigamy preferred against the supposed widow of the DUKE of KINGSTON. The Bill was found *—Mr. FIELD had notice of the procedure,

* The following is a Copy of the Bill of Indictment. *Middlesex.*

“ The Jurors of our Sovereign Lord the now King,
 “ present, that Elizabeth the wife of *Augustus-John*
 “ *Hervey*, late of the parish of Saint George, Hanover
 “ Square,

procedure, and the Duchess was properly advised to return instantly to England, and appear to the Indictment, to prevent an outlawry. The intelligence appeared like

a too-

“ Square, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire, on
 “ the eighth day of March, in the ninth year of the
 “ reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third,
 “ now King of Great Britain, and so forth, being
 “ *then married*, and then the wife of the said *Augustus-*
 “ *John Hervey*, with force of arms, at the said parish
 “ of Saint George, Hanover Square, in the said
 “ county of Middlesex, feloniously did marry and
 “ take to husband, *Evelyn Pierrepont*, Duke of King-
 “ ston, (the said *Augustus-John Hervey*, her former
 “ husband, being then alive) against the form of the
 “ statute in such case made and provided, and against
 “ the peace of our said Lord the King, his crown and
 “ dignity; and the said Jurors, for our said Sove-
 “ reign Lord the now King, upon their oath afore-
 “ said, farther present, that the said Elizabeth, here-
 “ tofore, (*to wit*) on the fourth day of August, in
 “ the eighteenth year of the reign of our late Sove-
 “ reign Lord George the Second, late King of Great
 “ Britain, and so forth, at the parish of *Lainston*, in
 “ the county of Southampton, by the name of *Eli-*
 “ *zabeth Chudleigh*, did marry the said *Augustus-*
 “ *John Hervey*, and him the said *Augustus-John Her-*

a too-powerful electrical shock—her nature with difficulty sustained it. On recovering the little of her judgment which was left, she drove to the house of Mr. JENKINS, a

“ *vey* then and there had for her husband. And that
 “ the said *Elizabeth*, being married, and the wife of
 “ the said *Augustus-John Hervey*, afterwards, (*to wit*)
 “ on the eighth day of March, in the ninth year of
 “ the reign of our said Sovereign Lord George the
 “ Third, now King of Great Britain, and so forth,
 “ with force and arms, in the said parish of Saint
 “ George, Hanover Square, in the said county of
 “ Middlesex, feloniously did marry, and take to hus-
 “ band, the said *Evelyn Pierrepont*, Duke of King-
 “ ston, (the said *Augustus-John Hervey*, her former
 “ husband, being then alive) against the form of the
 “ statute in such case made and provided, and against
 “ the peace of our said Sovereign Lord the now King,
 “ his crown and dignity.

“ O. T.

“ True Bill.

“ *Augustine Greenland*,

“ *Ann Craddock*,

“ *Christopher Dixon*,

“ *Thomas Dodd*,

“ *Samuel Harper*,

“ *John Foxart*.”

Sworn in the Court.

gentleman

gentleman who has acquired a large property by small means, commencing with the purchase of the little finger of a mutilated statue, and ending in what he now is, the banker to all the British travellers who visit the tutelary residence of Saint Peter.

To baffle art by art, and defeat, by policy, that which true wisdom could not oppose with a probability of success, is the custom of every hackneyed practitioner in the world. It is owing to their excellence in this system, that the sons of earth are so much wiser, in their several generations, than the children of light. The Duchess of Kingston was merely a woman of cunning, trusting solely to her machinations for success. Hence the barometer of her happiness rose, or was depressed, as her multifarious manœuvres produced what her chimerical fancy termed good or evil. The slightest check in the career of vanity; the least failure in the accomplishment of any vain-glorious project, occasioned a sigh. What then must the prospect of being compelled to bid farewell to all her greatness,

ness, have effected ! Those least accustomed to reflect, are the most depressed by reflection. The attack made on the honours of the Duchess, struck also at her principles and character. She knew, and she felt, that if the whole of her conduct should be bared to the light, a consummate degree of moral turpitude would appear. As to the marriage with his Grace of Kingston, the solemn opinions of the Civilians might be urged in extenuation ; but those opinions were obtained by partial facts only appearing to them. The EARL of BRISTOL had boasted of a marriage. The Lady whom he had denominated his wife, put him to the proof of the marriage ; and with perfect safety she might do this, when she had taken previous care to prevent the only witness who could prove the fact, from giving testimony in the cause. Here was fraud ; and, if Lord Bristol acquiesced in it, there was collusion. Another thing—There was certainly extreme turpitude in the fact of destroying the register of the marriage with the noble Earl, at one time ; and there was
the

the utmost fordidness in endeavouring to restore something like it, when likely to answer a selfish purpose. All these circumstances of evil-doing afforded miserable themes for reflection; and the period was now arrived, when reflection came with vengeance at her heels: but alternative there was none. An immediate return to England was the only measure to be adopted; and this the opponents of the Duchess had endeavoured to prevent, by a species of artful policy, exactly suited to the Lady with whom they had to deal. MR. JENKINS was then a banker. The Duchess had placed securities in his hands, answerable for the sums she might occasionally require. He was perfectly secure in any advance he might make; yet, apprized that the Duchess would call on him for money to defray the expence of her journey to England, he avoided seeing her. On the first announcement of his not being at home, it was passed over as a mere unfortunate incident; but on the visits being repeated, and the denials being as frequent, the conduct

was

was justly imputed to design. The scheme was to delay the return of the Duchess, so as that an outlawry might be obtained, which, in the eye of imagination, appeared the probable method of acquiring the estates of the late Duke. This was folly, because the will of his Grace, in his own hand writing, was so guarded as not to be attacked with the remotest possibility of success. Such, however, was the idea; and from whatever presumeable motive it originated, MR. JENKINS assuredly coincided with the plan. Aware of this, the Duchess was incessant in her applications; and finding all her efforts to see MR. JENKINS fail, she pocketed a brace of pistols, returned to his house, and receiving the usual answer that he was not at home, she sat on the steps of his door, and declared her determined resolution there to remain until he returned, were it for a week, month, or year. She knew that business would compel his return; and, finding it impracticable any longer to elude an interview, MR. JENKINS appeared. As the Duchess possessed that

that blessed gift of utterance, for which ladies of spirit are sometimes so eminently famous, it may be supposed, that the conversation with the banker was not of the mildest kind. Money was demanded, not asked. A little prevarication ensued; but the production of a pistol served as the most powerful mode of reasoning: the necessary was obtained, and the Duchess instantly quitted Rome.

We are now to behold the object of our succinct detail, in a light pitiable in the extreme. About to combat a prosecution, the event of which, the monitor within must inform the culprit, would be fatal; a series of reflections, and each accompanied by a censure, crowding on the mind, and putting the perturbed spirits on the rack of painful sensation; attended only by domestics, and wanting the consolation of a friend, each pace was a nearer approach to misery, and every hour only the anticipation of future woe. This was enough to overpower nature; nor will it be deemed surprising, that, under such oppressive circumstances,

cumstances, the health of the Duchess should be violently attacked. Her journey was retarded before she reached the Alps. A fever seemed to seize on her vitals. From that she recovered, to the astonishment of her attendants. An abscess then formed in her side, which rendering it impossible for her to endure the motion of a carriage, a kind of litter was provided, in which she gently travelled. In this situation, nature was relieved by the breaking of the abscess; and, after a tediously painful journey, the Duchess reached Calais. At that place she made a pause, and there it was that her apprehension got the better of her reason. In idea she was fettered, and incarcerated in the worst cell of the worst prison in London. She was totally ignorant of the bailable nature of her offence, and by consequence expected the utmost to be imagined. COLONEL WEST, a brother of the late Lord Delawar, whom the Duchess had known in England, became her principal associate; but he was not lawyer sufficient to satisfy her doubts.

By

By the means of former connections, and through a benevolence in his own nature, the EARL of MANSFIELD had a private interview with the Duchefs. Without mentioning the place of meeting, fuffice it to obferve, that this venerable Peer, who, having nearly finished his courfe, is now fubliming in fpirit preparatory to the fruition of cœleftial happinefs, conducted himfelf in a manner, which did honour to his heart and character. Her fpirits fothed, and her futile apprehenfions removed by the interview, the Duchefs embarked for Dover, landed, drove poft to Kingfton Houfe, and found friends displaying both zeal and alacrity in her caufe.

The prefent DUKE of NEWCASTLE was fteadily devoted to her welfare. The DUKES of ANCASTER and PORTLAND testified their fincere good wifhes*,
LORD

† Lord BARRINGTON alfo preferved, to the laft hour of her life, a truly fincere attachment for the Duchefs. On her trial, he was called as an evidence, and the queftions put to him, being intended to ex-
tort

LORD MOUNTSTUART shewed, in numerous instances, his kindness; and there were not wanting a circle of other distinguished personages, who, reprobating the prosecution as originating in mercenary and vindictive motives, conceived themselves to be justified in protecting, as far as in their power lay, the object persecuted. The first measure taken was to have the *Duchess* bailed. This was done before Lord Mansfield, his Grace of Newcastle, Lord Mountstuart, Mr. GLOVER*, and other

tort what had passed in private conversation, his Lordship, with a great degree of firmness, declined giving any answer. The Peers withdrew, and on returning, delivered it as their opinion, that the Noble Lord was bounden to answer the questions. He still, however, refused; and, to get rid of the business, the questions which had been proposed, were softened, and his further testimony was dispensed with. The *Duchess* and Lord Barrington constantly corresponded.

* *Philips Glover, Esq.* a Lincolnshire gentleman, independent in fortune, and in soul. His word, given even on occasions the most trivial, is veracity itself. Professions he makes not; unless they are suggested by
the

other characters of rank attending. This disagreeable matter adjusted, the manner of adjusting it was such as to solace the mind, and prepared it for a greater encounter. It is in the constitution of sublunary things, that the endurance of evils is the lot of mortality ; and it is in the benignant order of Heaven, that the worst evils should be endurable, by happening so progressively, as that our natures are tempered, by gradation, to the infelicity of their condition.

The

the feelings of his heart. To duplicity his nature is so greatly averse, that on the slightest appearance of it, his indignation is aroused ; not meaning to trifle with others, he will not suffer the most exalted characters to trifle with him. Of this he gave a signal instance, when the late *Marquis of Rockingham*, being the Minister, betrayed an inclination to dispense with a promise he had given *Mr. Glover*, to place a lad in the Charter-house. The *Marquis* played the *Courtier*, forgetting the nature of the man with whom he had to deal. After several attempts to evade, *Mr. Glover* brought the matter to issue, by requesting a Peer to tell the *Marquis*, who was his friend, “ That if he “ did not immediately perform his promise, he would “ pull his skin over his ears, and that at a public meet-
“ ing

The prosecution, and consequent trial of the Duchess, becoming objects of magnitude, the public curiosity and expectation were proportionably excited. The Duchess had, through life, distinguished herself as a most eccentric character. Her turn of mind was original, and many of her actions were without a parallel. Even when she moved in the sphere of amusement, it was in a style peculiarly her own. If others invited admiration by a partial display of their charms, at a masquerade, she at once threw off the veil, and set censure at defiance. Thus, at a midnight assembly, where Bacchus revelled, and the altars of Venus were encircled by the votaries of Love, the Duchess, then denominated Miss Chudleigh, appeared almost in the unadorned simplicity of primitive nature. Whether to demonstrate how nearly she

“ ing in his own county.” This language soon settled the matter; and the lad whom *Mr. Glover* had patronized, filled the vacancy at the Charter-house. *Mr. Glover* was an intimate friend of the Duke of Kingston.

was

was allied to her ancestress, Eve, before the fall; or, whether from a religious veneration of the customs which prevailed in Eden; whatever was her motive, certain it is, that she was every thing but *naked**; and yet, like our first parents, she was not *ashamed*. Thus erratic in her nature, the dilemma into which she was thrown by the pending prosecution, was scarcely more than might be expected to happen to such a character. She had, in a manner, invited the disgrace, by neglecting the means of preventing it. Mrs. CRADOCK, the only existing evidence against her, had personally solicited a maintenance for the remaining years of her life. On a certain annual stipend being settled on her, she had voluntarily offered to retire to her native village, and never more intrude.—This offer was rejected by the Dukes, who would only consent to allow her twenty pounds a year,

* This alludes to her appearance in the character of IPHIGENIA, at a Jubilee Ball, in the year 1744. An exact delineation of her dress is given in the Frontispiece of this Detail.

on condition of her sequestering herself in some place near the *Peake of Derbyshire*. This the Duchefs considered as a most liberal offer; and, she expressed her astonishment that the "*Old devil*," as she used to call her, should have had the assurance to reject it. To her cost in purse, and to her agony in mind, it was rejected with the utmost scorn; and she who was refused a paltry pittance, except on condition of banishment for life, might afterwards have received thousands to abscond. The impulse of fear would produce what the feelings of humanity never could call forth.

From the moment in which the recognizances for the appearance of the Duchefs were entered into, a scene of law disclosed itself. Books of cases were purchased in abundance, precedents were blotted with ink, the pages doubled down, and pins stuck in the several notes of reference. Instead of travelling like a Jew pedlar, with a diamond box at her back, TAYLOR's *Elements of Civil Law*, COKE's *Institutes*, some history of the Privileges of Peers to

be doubly married, or a volume of the State Trials, garnished the coach in which the Duchefs drove from his Grace of Newcastle to Mr. ARMSTRONG, the Sheriff's officer. By the gentlemen of the robe, as it may be naturally supposed, the Duchefs was furrounded, and so charitably were they disposed, that they gave her every consolation she could wish. The civilians were armed at all points to prove, that a sentence of their courts was an effectual bar to the admission of evidence. Like Fate, an ecclesiastical decree was irrevocable. The common lawyers, on the other hand, smiled, or affected to smile, at the idea of a conviction. It was a mere phantom, conjured up in the hour of dismay, for the purpose of affrighting. Under these assurances, the Duchefs was as quiet as the troublesome monitor in her bosom would give permission. When a gentle hint of possible danger was suggested by any of the disinterested few, the mercenary many instantly soothed all into peace. Reconciled, therefore, in some measure, to the encounter,

D

ter,

ter, the repose of the Duchess was, on a sudden, interrupted by an adversary from a different quarter. This was no less celebrated a personage than the late SAMUEL FOOTE. The circumstance was as follows:

Mr. FOOTE, as a cotemporary, and mixing, as he did, in the first circles of fashion, was perfectly acquainted with the leading transactions of the Duchess's life. Besides this, he had received much private information from some person who had lived in the house with her. The suspicion, at the time, fell on a Miss PENROSE, a young lady who had experienced so many gracious promises from the Duchess, that she only found it necessary to provide for herself until they were accomplished. Whoever furnished the intelligence, it certainly was of the most private kind, and, possessing it, FOOTE resolved to make something of what he thus knew. As, in the opinion of MANDEVILLE, private vices are public benefits, so FOOTE deemed the crimes and follies of individuals convertible into advantage

vantage by the amalgamy of wit. On this principle, he proceeded with the Duchess of Kingston. He had written a piece, entitled, "*A Trip to Calais.*" The scenes were humorous, the character of the Duchess was most admirably drawn, and the effect was accomplished; which was, that she should see, and be ashamed of, herself. The real design of Foote was, to obtain a considerable sum of money from the Duchess, for suppressing the piece. With this view he contrived to have it communicated to her Grace, by an indifferent person, that the Haymarket theatre would open with the entertainment in which she was, as the phrase is, taken off to the life. This was intended to alarm, and it did effectually alarm her. She sent for Mr. Foote. He attended, with the piece in his pocket. She desired him to read a part of it. He obeyed; and proceeding in the character of LADY KITTY CROCODILE, his auditors could no longer forbear. She arose, in a violent passion, and exclaimed, "This is scandalous, Mr.

“ Foote! Why, what a wretch you have made me !” “ You ! (replied the humourist) “ this is not designed for your Grace ; “ it is not you !” After a few turns about the room, the Duchess calmed her turbulence, and assuming a smile, entreated it as a favour that Mr. Foote would leave the piece for her perusal, engaging at the same time to return it on the ensuing morning. He readily complied. The carriage was ordered, and he took his leave. Left thus to consider her own picture, so much did her Grace dislike it, that she determined, if possible, to prevent the exposure of it to public view. As the artist had no objection to selling it, she inclined to be the purchaser. This was the next morning made known to Foote, who was questioned as to the sum which would satisfy him for suppressing the piece. Proportioning his expectations to her power of gratifying them, he demanded TWO THOUSAND POUNDS, and to be paid a certain sum, in compensation for a loss which, he pretended, would be sustained by the scenes designed for the “ TRIP

" *to CALAIS,*" being appropriated to other uses. The enormity of this demand staggered the DUCHESS. By messages she intimated her extreme surprize, and a wish that the request were moderated within the boundary of reason. Imagining that she must at last comply, Foote would not abate one guinea. She offered him fourteen, then *sixteen hundred pounds*, and had actually a draft on Messrs. DRUMMOND, for that sum, for his acceptance. This yielding, only induced Foote to think he should finally succeed, until by grasping at too much, he overstood his market, and lost every thing.

The demand made by FOOTE on the DUCHESS, might, at any time except the particular juncture in which it was urged, having passed among the other indifferent events of the hour, as wholly unmeriting the public notice. There are innumerable incidents which start up, like bubbles on the water, and are daily carried down the stream of time, without even exciting observation, much less interesting our atten-

tion. Self, or what a man of worth considereth as his other self, a friend must be engaged, before we are stimulated to take an active part in any pending business of whatever nature. It was thus in the case now relating. Those, long connected with the Duchess, and in established habits of intimacy, felt the attack made on her, as directed by a ruffian hand, at a moment when she was, of all moments of her life, the least able to make any resistance. A bill of indictment had been found. At the hazard of her life had she journeyed from Rome to London, to abide the consequences of a most serious prosecution. During her absence, every method had been adopted by her opponents, to degrade her in the public opinion; and, now, that she had come fairly forward to meet her fate, it was no more than a common principle of equity that, pending the suit against her, all should be quiescent. Every alien attack was criminal barbarity. To prejudice was to bias; and, the consequence of the Public, and of Judges, as component parts of that public,

public, being biaſſed againſt a culprit, had been fatally experienced in a variety of inſtances. — There was another unanſwerable plea in bar to any wanton or malicious attack. This was the Sex of the party proſecuted. For women, men ſhould ever feel, and feeling, ſhould ever be their advocates. With all their faults, they are the ſolacers of life ; and, when virtue is blended with their charms, they become irrefiſtible. It was vain, however, altogether vain, to ſuppoſe that FOOTE could be ſoftened, by what would melt down, as it were, the feelings of others, in the mould of compaſſion. Mr. FOOTE abounded in wit and mimicry, and, both united, ſpared neither age, ſex, nor condition. Inſtead of a piſtol, he had a libel in his hand ; this he preſented to the boſom of a female, and threatened to direct the contents to her heart, unleſs ſhe delivered to him TWO THOUSAND POUNDS. The critical period in which this attempt was made, as before intimated, was ſuch as to intereſt every friend of the Duchefs in her behalf. His Grace the Duke of

NEWCASTLE was consulted. The Chamberlain of the Household was apprized of the circumstance; and, his prohibitory interference was earnestly solicited. He sent for the manuscript copy of the "*Trip to Calais*," perused and censured it. This occasioned a remonstrating letter * from FOOTE, to the

* LETTER from MR. FOOTE to the EARL of
HERTFORD.

" My LORD,

" I did intend troubling your Lordship with an
" earlier address, but the day after I received your
" prohibitory mandate, I had the honour of a visit
" from Lord Mountstuart, to whose interposition I
" find I am indebted for your first commands, relative
" to the *Trip to Calais*, by Mr. Chetwynd, and your
" final rejection of it by Colonel Keen.

" Lord Mountstuart has, I presume, told your
" Lordship, that he read with me those scenes to
" which your Lordship objected, that he found them
" collected from general nature, and applicable to
" none but those who, through consciousness, were
" compelled to a self-application. To such minds,
" my Lord, the Whole Duty of Man, next to the
" Sacred Writings, is the severest satire that ever was
" wrote; and to the same mark, if Comedy directs
" not

the EARL of HERTFORD, at that time in office. Beside these, and other powerful aids, the Duchefs called in jurisprudential advice. The Sages of the Robe were consulted, and
their

“ not her aim, her arrows are shot in the air ; for by
 “ what touches no man, no man will be mended.
 “ Lord Mountstuart desired that I would suffer him
 “ to take the play with him, and let him leave it with
 “ the Duchefs of Kingston : he had my consent, my
 “ Lord, and at the same time an assurance, that I was
 “ willing to make any alteration that her Grace would
 “ suggest. Her Grace saw the play, and, in consequence,
 “ I saw her Grace ; with the result of
 “ that interview, I shall not, at this time, trouble
 “ your Lordship. It may, perhaps, be necessary to
 “ observe, that her Grace could not discern, which
 “ your Lordship, I dare say, will readily believe, a
 “ single trait in the character of Lady Kitty Crocodile,
 “ that resembled herself.

“ After this representation, your Lordship, will, I
 “ doubt not, permit me to enjoy the fruits of my labour ;
 “ nor will you think it reasonable, because a capricious
 “ individual has taken it into her head, that
 “ I have pinned her ruffles awry, that I should be punished
 “ by a poniard stuck deep in my heart : your Lordship
 “ has too much candour and justice to be the instrument
 “ of so violent and ill-directed a blow.

their opinions were, “ That the Piece was
 “ a malicious libel, and that should it be
 “ represented, a short-hand writer ought to
 “ be employed by the Duchefs to attend on
 “ the

“ Your Lordship’s determination is not only of the
 “ greatest importance to me now, but must inevitably
 “ decide my fate for the future, as after this defeat, it will
 “ be impossible for me to muster up courage enough to
 “ face Folly again ; between the muse and the magif-
 “ trate there is a natural confederacy ; what the last
 “ cannot punish, the first often corrects ; but when she
 “ finds herself not only deserted by her ancient ally,
 “ but sees him armed in the defence of her foe, she has
 “ nothing left but a speedy retreat : Adieu then, my
 “ Lord, to the stage. Valeat res ludicra, to which,
 “ I hope, I may with justice add, plaudite, as, during
 “ my continuance in the service of the Public, I ne-
 “ ver profited by flattering their passions, or falling in
 “ with their humours, as upon all occasions, I have
 “ exerted my little powers (as indeed I thought it my
 “ duty) in exposing follies, how much soever the
 “ favourites of the day ; and pernicious prejudices,
 “ however protected and popular. This, my Lord, has
 “ been done, if those may be believed who have the
 “ best right to know, sometimes with success ; let me
 “ add too, that in doing this I never lost my credit
 “ with the Public, because they knew that I pro-
 ceeded

“ the night of representation, to minute
 “ each offensive passage, as the groundwork
 “ of a prosecution.” This advice was
 followed, because consonant with the ideas
 of the Duchefs, who, by this time, had be-
 come a very great lawyers. BLANCHARD
 was the person selected in preference to
 GURNEY; and his admission-fee to one of
 the side-boxes being properly guaranteed,
 a complete entrapment was supposed to
 be laid for FOOTE. Whether he received
 private intimation of the scheme, or whe-
 ther he found his attempt on the purse of
 the Duchefs, excite the displeasure of those
 whose favours were of consequence to him;
 whatever caused the intimidation, intimi-
 dated he began to be. The proof which he
 gave of it was, a denial that he ever had

“ ceeded upon principle; that I disdained being
 “ either the echo or the instrument of any man, how-
 “ ever exalted his station, and that I never received
 “ reward or protection from any other hands than
 “ their own.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.

“ SAMUEL FOOTE.”

D 6.

made.

made so exorbitant a demand as Two THOUSAND POUNDS for the suppression of the piece. This denial much contributed to his injury, because the *Rev. Mr. FOSTER*,* a clergyman of respectability, considerably

* *MR. FOSTER* had, in the early part of life, been selected by old *Edward Wortley Montague*, the husband of the late celebrated *Lady Mary*, and the father of the present *Lady Bute*, to superintend the education of that very eccentric character, the late *Edward Wortley Montague*. *FOSTER* was perfectly qualified for the station of a private tutor, but his pupil was so exceedingly disposed to fly off, as it were, in a tangent, as to render it utterly impossible to fix his attention to any thing worthy pursuit. After thrice running away, and being discovered by his father's *valet*, crying *flounders* about the streets of *Deptford*, he was sent to the West Indies, whither *Foster* accompanied him. On their return to England, a good-natured stratagem was practised to obtain a temporary supply of money from old *Montague*, and at the same time to give him a favourable opinion of his son's attention to a particular species of erudition. The stratagem was this: *FOSTER* writ a book which he entitled, "*The Rise and Fall of the Roman Republics.*" To this he subjoined the name of *Edward Wortley Montague, jun.*
E/sq.

siderably advanced in years, and who had through life mingled with the great world, came voluntarily forward, and made an affidavit of the following facts : “ That in
 “ consequence of the threat to perform the
 “ *Trip to Calais*, he waited on Mr. Foote,
 “ and remonstrated with him on the ex-

Esq. Old Wortley, seeing the book advertised, sent for his son, and gave him a Bank note of *one hundred pounds*, promising him a similar present for every new edition which the book should pass through. It was well received by the Public, and, therefore a second edition occasioned a second supply. It is now in libraries with the name of *Wortley Montague*, prefixed as the author, although he did not write a line of it. MR. FOSTER was afterwards chaplain to the celebrated *Sir William Wyndham* : he then went to *Petersburgh*, in the suite of the English Ambassador. Many years afterwards, he became acquainted with the Duke of Kingston, and, on the demise of his Grace, the Duchess appointed him her domestic Chaplain. He accompanied her on her first visit to *Petersburgh*, and the Empress, who had known him before, gave him an appointment in the academy, annexing a stipend out of her privy purse. This appointment he held a short time, and died in the *eighty-sixth year* of his age.

“ irredeemable barbarity of such an attack, at
 “ such a particular juncture. That Mr.
 “ Foote had only agreed to suppress the
 “ piece, on his receiving from the Duchess
 “ the sum of *Two Thousand Pounds.*” This
 affidavit was so complete a refutation of the
 denial, as not to leave it in the power of
 ingenuity to retort ; and with the public, the
 testimony of Mr. Foster had every desired
 effect.

Thus defeated in point of fact, FOOTE
 found himself baffled also in point of design,
 The Chamberlain would not permit the
 piece to be represented. Foote tried the
 force of his connections ; but it was the ef-
 fort of weakness against inflexibility. Here
 the utmost which his humour could do, was
 to support a laugh at the expence of his
 purse. He was to be merry in sadness —
 for sadness the loss of *sixteen hundred pounds*
 must privately have occasioned. So little
 did Foote relish the deprivation of this
 sum, that he opened a new negociation with
 the Duchess, causing it to be intimated to
 her, “ That it was in his power to *publish*,
 “ if

“ if not to *perform* ; but that were his ex-
 “ pences reimbursed, (and the sum which
 “ her grace had formerly offered him
 “ would do the business) he would desist.”

This intimation being communicated to the
 Duchess, she did in this, as in too many
 cases, ask the opinion of her friends, with a
 secret determination to follow her own.
 Foote finding that she began to yield,
 pressed his desire incessantly ; and she had
 actually provided bills to the amount of
 sixteen hundred pounds, which she would
 have given Foote, but for the following cir-
 cumstance : The EARL OF PETERBOROUGH,
 Doctor ISAAC SCHOMBERG, the Rev. Mr.
 FOSTER, and Mr. FIELD, the Solicitor,
 were alternately consulted, and they sever-
 ally reprobated the demand as a scandalous
 imposition, with which it would be weakness
 to comply. Doctor SCHOMBERG, in par-
 ticular, declared, “ That although he had
 “ been for many years intimate with Foote,
 “ and had spent some of the pleasantest
 “ hours of his life in his company, yet he
 “ would tell him to his face, as a man, that
 he

“ he deserved to be run through the body for
 “ such an attempt. It was more ignoble than
 “ the conduct of an highwayman.” This
 pointed language, dictated, as every utterance
 from the lips of ISAAC SCHOMBERG was, by
 the feelings of an honourable heart, had con-
 siderable effect ; but still the Duchefs dread-
 ed the pen almost as much as the personified
 humour of Foote ; and of the powers of lite-
 rary defence she was herself entirely destitute.
 In this juncture of alarm, the *Reverend* Mr.
 JACKSON, who was at that time Editor of
 a political paper in some estimation with
 the oppositionists to the ruinous measures of
Lord North, being asked his opinion of the
 demand made by Foote, returned this an-
 swer : “ Instead of complying with it, your
 “ Grace should obtain complete evidence
 “ of the menace and demand, and then
 “ consult your Counsel, whether a prose-
 “ cution will not lie for endeavouring to
 “ extort money by threats. Your Grace
 “ must remember the attack on the first
 “ *Duke of Marlborough*, who was endea-
 “ voured to be *menaced* into compliance by a
 “ stranger,

" stranger, who had formed a design either on his purse or his interest." This answer struck the EARL of PETERBOROUGH, and Mr. FOSTER, very forcibly, as in perfect coincidence with their own opinions. His Grace the DUKE of ANCASTER also accorded in idea. Mr. JACKSON was then solicited to wait on Mr. FOOTE; Mr. Foster, the proper Chaplain of the Duchess, professing himself to be too far advanced in years to enter the field of literary combat. Mr. Jackson consented to be the champion, on the subsequent condition, " That the
 " Duchess would give her honour never to
 " retract her determination not to let Foote
 " extort from her a single guinea." Subscribing to this condition, Mr. JACKSON waited on Mr. Foote, at his house in Suffolk-street, adjoining the Haymarket Theatre. After the usual ceremonies, Mr. Jackson told him, " That he came as a
 " friend of the Duchess of Kingston, and
 " wished to be favoured with a categorical
 " answer to this question, whether Mr.
 " Foote meant to publish the piece which
 " the

“ the Chamberlain had refused to license,
 “ called *A Trip to Calais* ?” Mr. Foote was
 about to enter into a long detail respect-
 ing the vast expence which had been in-
 curred, when Mr. Jackson interrupted him
 thus : “ If, Sir, you mean, by informing
 “ me of the expence, to intimate an ex-
 “ pectation that the whole, or any part of
 “ it should be defrayed by the Duchefs, I
 “ fairly tell you that you will find yourself
 “ mistaken ; she will not give you one gui-
 “ nea.” Foote endeavoured to turn this
 off by a laugh, and instead of replying to
 the point, he begged Mr. Jackson would
 hear him read the letter which he had writ-
 ten to the Earl of Hertford, complaining
 of the hardship of prohibiting the repre-
 sentation of a piece, merely because some
 lady of quality might suppose herself ridi-
 culed for *pinning her ruffles awry* ; and al-
 though there was point, wit, and brilliancy
 in it, yet it was not an answer to the question ;
 Mr. Jackson, therefore, finally repeated it,
 when Mr. Foote said, “ O, I shall certainly
 “ publish the piece, unless the Duchefs
 “ will

“ will consider the heavy loss which I shall
 “ sustain. But why the devil does *Isaac*
 “ *Schomberg* interfere? We should hunt
 “ down these *reps* of quality in couples.
 “ Besides, LADY KITTY CROCODILE will
 “ suit nine, out of ten, widows of fashion in the
 “ kingdom. Their *darned tears* are like a
 “ *shower* in *sunshine*, refreshing their weeds,
 “ and making their faces look the brighter.”

Mr. Jackson, on this, wished Mr. Foote a
 good morning, and was about to retire,
 when Foote put his hand on his shoulder,
 and said, “ What ! and so I am to be at-
 “ tacked if I publish *The Trip to Calais*.”
 Mr. Jackson replied, “ The publication
 “ will be an attack from you, Mr. Foote,
 “ the effect of which, I, as the friend of
 “ the Duchesse, will do my utmost to pre-
 “ vent.” Here the interview ended.

Foote, however, still wished to have mat-
 ters compromised, and a meeting to take
 place. To accomplish this, he addressed
 a letter to the Duchesse which began by
 stating, “ That a Member of the Privy
 “ Council, and a friend of her Grace, (by
 whom

whom he meant the *Duke of Newcastle*)
 “ had conversed with him on the subject of
 “ the dispute between them ; and that for
 “ himself he was ready to have every thing
 “ adjusted.” This letter gave the Duchess
 a triumph. There was concession in every
 line. She sent for Mr. Jackson. Thanked
 him ten thousand times for his interference.
 Declared that he had saved her *sixteen hun-*
dred pounds. She shewed him the letter which
 she had received from Foote, and desired
 him, in her name, to answer it, and publish
 both. This he declined, alleging, that a new-
 paper controversy would degrade her. She
 however, thought otherwise ; and the town
 was amused by the following correspondence
 passing between the Duchess, and her mi-
 mic antagonist :

“ *To her Grace the Duchess of Kingston.*

“ MADAM,

“ A member of the Privy Council, and
 “ a friend of your Grace’s, he has begged
 “ me not to mention his name, but I sup-
 “ pose your Grace will easily guess him,
 “ has just left me ; he has explained to me,
 “ what I did not conceive, that the publi-

“ cation

“ cation of the scenes in the *Trip to Calais*,
“ at this juncture, with the dedication and
“ preface, might be of infinite ill conse-
“ quence to your affairs.

“ I really, Madam, wish you no ill, and
“ should be sorry to do you an injury.

“ I therefore give up to that consideration,
“ what neither your Grace's offers, nor the
“ threats of your agents could obtain; the
“ scenes shall not be published, nor shall
“ any thing appear at my theatre, or from
“ me, that can hurt you;

“ Provided the attacks made on me in
“ the newspapers, does not make it neces-
“ sary for me to act in defence of myself.

“ Your Grace will therefore see the ne-
“ cessity of giving proper directions.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Your Grace's

“ Most devoted servant,

“ SAM. FOOTE.”

North End,

Sunday, Aug. 13th, 1775.

(C O P Y.*)

* This letter is printed exactly from the manuscript.

To

To Mr. F O O T E.

“ S I R,

“ I was at dinner when I received your
“ ill-judged letter. As there is little confi-
“ deration required, I shall sacrifice a mo-
“ ment to answer it.

“ A Member of your privy council can
“ never hope to be of a lady’s cabinet.

“ I know too well what is due to my own
“ dignity, to enter into a compromise with
“ an extortionable assassin of private reputa-
“ tion. If I before abhorred you for your
“ slander, I now despise you for your con-
“ cessions; it is a proof of the illiberality
“ of your satire, when you can publish or
“ suppress it as best suits the needy conve-
“ nience of your purse. You first had the
“ cowardly baseness to draw the sword, and,
“ if I sheath it, until I make you crouch
“ like the subservient vassal as you are, then
“ is there not spirit in an injured woman,
“ nor meanness in a slanderous buffoon.

“ To a man my sex alone would have
“ screened me from attack—but I am wri-
“ ting to the descendant of a Merry Andrew,
“ and

“ and prostitute the term of manhood, by
“ applying it to Mr. Foote.

“ Cloathed in my innocence, as in a coat
“ of mail, I am proof against an host of
“ foes; and, conscious of never having
“ intentionally offended a single individual,
“ I doubt not but a brave and generous
“ people will protect me from the malevo-
“ lence of a theatrical assassin. You shall
“ have cause to remember, that though I
“ would have given liberally for the relief
“ of your necessities, I scorn to be bullied
“ into a purchase of your silence.

“ There is something, however, in your
“ pity at which my nature revolts. To
“ make me an offer of pity, at once betrays
“ your insolence and your vanity. I will
[“ keep the pity you send until the morning
“ before you are turned off, when I will re-
“ turn it by a Cupid, with a box of lip-salve,
“ and a choir of choristers shall chaunt a
“ stave to your requiem.

E. KINGSTON.

“ *Kingston-House,*
“ *Sunday, 13th August.*

“ P. S.

“ P. S. You would have received this
“ sooner, but the servant has been a long
“ time writing it.”

(COPY.)

To the DUCHESS of KINGSTON.

“ MADAM,

“ Though I have neither time nor in-
“ clination to answer the illiberal attacks of
“ your agents, yet a public correspondence
“ with your Grace is too great an honour
“ for me to decline. I can't help thinking
“ but it would have been prudent in your
“ Grace to have answered my letter before
“ dinner, or at least postponed it to the cool
“ hour of the morning; you would then
“ have found that I had voluntarily granted
“ that request which you had endeavoured,
“ by so many different ways, to obtain.

“ Lord Mountstuart, for whose amiable
“ qualities I have the highest respect, and
“ whose name your agents first unneces-
“ sarily produced to the public, must re-
“ collect, when I had the honour to meet
“ him at Kingston House, by your Grace's
“ ap-

" appointment, that instead of begging re-
 " lief from your charity, I rejected your
 " splendid offers to suppress the Trip to
 " Calais, with the contempt they de-
 " served. Indeed, Madam, the humanity
 " of my royal and benevolent Master, and
 " the public protection, have placed me
 " much above the reach of your bounty.

" But why, Madam, put on your coat
 " of mail against me ? I have no hostile in-
 " tentions. Folly, not vice, is the game I
 " pursue. In those scenes which you so
 " unaccountably apply to yourself, you
 " must observe, that there is not the slightest
 " hint at the little incidents of your life,
 " which have excited the curiosity of the
 " Grand Inquest for the county of Middle-
 " sex. I am happy, Madam, however, to
 " hear, that your robe of innocence is in such
 " perfect repair ; I was afraid it might have
 " been a little the worse for the wearing ;
 " may it hold out to keep you warm the
 " next winter.

" The progenitors your Grace has done
 " me the honour to give me, are, I presume,
 " E. " merely

“ merely metaphorical persons, and to be
 “ considered as the authors of my muse,
 “ and not of my manhood : a Merry An-
 “ drew and a Prostitute are no bad poetical
 “ parents, especially for a writer of plays ;
 “ the first to give the humour and mirth,
 “ the last to furnish the graces and powers
 “ of attraction. Prostitutes and players too
 “ must live by pleasing the public ; not but
 “ your Grace may have heard of ladies, who,
 “ by private practice, have accumulated
 “ amazing great fortunes. If you mean
 “ that I really owe my birth to that pleasant
 “ connection, your Grace is grossly deceived.
 “ My father was, in truth, a very useful
 “ Magistrate and respectable country gen-
 “ tleman, as the whole county of Cornwall
 “ will tell you ; my mother, the daughter of
 “ Sir Edward Goodere, Bart. who represent-
 “ ed the county of Hereford ; her fortune was
 “ large, and her morals irreproachable, till
 “ your Grace condescended to stain them* ;
 “ she

* This *mother*, whom *Mr. Foote* thus affects to re-
 vere, he suffered to remain a prisoner for debt, within
 the

“ she was upwards of fourscore years old
 “ when she died, and, what will surprize
 “ your Grace, was never married but once
 “ in her life. I am obliged to your Grace
 “ for your intended present on the day, as
 “ you politely express it, when I am to be
 “ turned off. But where will your Grace
 “ get the Cupid to bring me the lip-salve?
 “ That family, I am afraid, has long quit-
 “ ted your service.

“ Pray, Madam, is not *Jackson* the name
 “ of your female confidential secretary? and
 “ is not she generally clothed in black pet-
 “ ticoats made out of your weeds?

“ So mourn’d the dame of Ephesus her love.”

“ I fancy your Grace took the hint when
 “ you last resided at Rome; you heard

the rules of the King’s Bench, and that at a time
 when he was in the zenith of his fame, lolled at his
 ease in an equipage, and, like the rich man described
 in the Gospel, “ fared sumptuously every day.” His
 liberal allowance for her support in confinement, was,
twenty pounds a year! This is a fact: let the public
 make the comment.

E 2

“ there,

“ there, I suppose, of a certain Joan, who
 “ was once elected a Pope, and, in humble
 “ imitation, have converted a pious Parson
 “ into a chambermaid. The scheme is new
 “ in this country, and has doubtless its par-
 “ ticular pleasures. That you may never
 “ want the benefit of the clergy in every
 “ emergence, is the sincere wish of

“ Your Grace’s

“ Most devoted, and

“ obliged humble servant,

“ SAMUEL FOOTE.”

This farce carrying on with Foote, served
 to turn, for a time, the current of thought
 into a different channel; but, it becoming
 necessary, in the progress of events, to
 adopt some serious measures, either with a
 view to evade, or meet the pending prosecu-
 tion, the Duchess openly affected a most
 earnest desire to have the trial, if possible,
 accelerated. Secretly, however, she was
 employed in trying every stratagem, in the
 power of art to devise, to elude the measures
 taken against her. A very favourable op-
 portunity

portunity offered, which, had she embraced, her purpose would have been accomplished. The critical moment thus presented itself. It became a matter of debate, in the House of Peers, whether the trial of her Grace should, or should not, be carried on in Westminster Hall. The expence, to be incurred by the nation, was, by several Peers, considered as inducing a burden wholly unnecessary. LORD MANSFIELD endeavoured to avail himself of this objection, in favour of the Ducheſs, whom it was his private wiſh to have ſaved from the expoſure of a trial, and the ignominy of what he well knew muſt follow, a conviction. His Lordſhip thus delivered his ſentiments : “ But the arguments about the
 “ place of trial, ſuggeſt to my mind a
 “ queſtion as to the propriety of any trial
 “ at all. *Cui bono* ? What utility is to be
 “ obtained, ſuppoſe a conviction be the re-
 “ ſult ? The lady makes your Lordſhips a
 “ *curteſy*, and you return a *bow*.” This language, although vehemently oppoſed by the Chancellor BATHURST, yet conſiderably

damped the ardor of the prosecutors. The tendency of the observation was extremely perceptible ; and, aware of the private influence which Lord Mansfield had at the time, it was apprehended that he might so exert it, as to defeat, by some means or other, the purpose aimed at. Here, then, was the critical instant in which the Duchess might have extricated herself. An hint was privately conveyed to her, that the sum of TEN THOUSAND POUNDS would satisfy every expectation, and put an end to the prosecution. This hint was improved into an authoritative proposal. The Duchess was entreated by her friends to embrace the measure, but through a fatal confidence, (either in her legal advisers, her own manœuvrings, or a commixture of both, she rejected the proposal with an air of insult. This was folly in the extreme ; and yet it was deserving pity, because it was folly misguided. From Dr. COLLIER, the Civilian, to Mr. WALLACE, the Counsel, the language uniformly held was, “ That the Duchess had not any “ thing to fear.” The late SERJEANT DAVY,

DAVY, who at first said, that “ the *case* “ lay in a *nutshell*, and that her Grace would “ inevitably be convicted,” on being introduced to Kingston House, afforded the following very remarkable instance of tergiversation. The Serjeant dined with the Duchess on a day when she received a letter from her Counsel, Mr. Wallace, then at Bath. The contents reviving her spirits, she communicated them to the company, with the following consolatory observation ; “ My heart is now at rest ; Mr. Wallace “ wishes for the trial, that he may give me “ joy of a triumph.” Serjeant DAVY, on this, said, “ If WALLACE knows your “ Grace’s case as well as I do, he will, I “ am confident, agree with me in opinion. “ I will forfeit *my right hand as a man*, and “ *my reputation as Lawyer*, if your Grace “ has not *less than nothing to fear*.” The Earl of PETERBOROUGH, after dinner, took Mr. JACKSON, who happened to be of the party, aside, and facetiously asked him, “ Whether he knew the cause of the learned “ Serjeant’s sudden conversion ?” Mr.

JACKSON pointed to an order for a *side of venison*, and some excellent *Madeira*, which were to be sent to the Serjeant's villa; and he added, "That a *twenty-pound note* for " *every visit*, were arguments sufficient to " profelyte an accommodating mind."

Under all these assurances of safety, the Duchess assumed an indifference about the business, which but ill accorded with her situation. She talked of the absolute necessity of setting out for Rome; affected to have some material business to transact with his Holiness the Pope; and she took, in consequence, every measure in her power to accelerate the trial, as if the regular pace of justice were not swift enough to overtake her. She did not, however, abandon her manœuvring. On the contrary, at the moment in which she had claimed her privilege as a Peerefs, and petitioned for a speedy trial, she was busied in a scheme to get hold of the principal evidence, Mrs. CRADOCK, and prevail on her to quit the kingdom. A near relation of this woman was a deliverer of penny-post letters. He

was

was spoken to, and he engaged to let the Duchefs have an interview with Mrs. CRADOCK; but her Grace was to be disguised, and to reveal herself only after some conversation. The stratagem was adopted. The DUCHESS changed her sex in appearance, and waited, at the appointed hour and place, without seeing either Mrs. CRADOCK, or the person who had promised to effect the meeting. The fact is, that every minutia of this business had been communicated to the prosecutors, who instructed the letter-carrier to pretend an acquiescence in the scheme. The above project having failed, another manœuvre was adopted.

The Duchefs, hearing that the prosecutors witnesses were boarded at Mr. Tattersal's, Hyde Park-corner, ever fond of enterprize, contrived fixing a person to reside among them, with a view to ingratiate himself on familiar terms, to get at a knowledge of the evidence they were respectively to give: their quarters being in the nature of an inn and tavern, the scheme was accomplished in the following manner: the person

fixed on for this business, introduced himself as a Shropshire gentleman just arrived, put up his horse as if by accident, having some parliamentary business that called his attention for about two months; and taking a particular liking to the situation, his health not permitting him to sleep in London, enquired whether he could be accommodated with board and lodging? being answered in the affirmative, replied, he should leave his horse, and return the next day with his baggage, which he expected in London that evening by the diligence; he returned and took possession of his apartment, where he remained the whole day to adjust his papers and recruit himself after a fatiguing journey.

In three or four days he hinted a dislike to eating alone, and wished to be accommodated in a family way: he was informed there was a company resident there on business, who usually were entertained at one table; it should be mentioned; and if they would consent, he might join them, they acquiescing: he was introduced, and being a man of pleasant conversation, they formed

an agreeable society. Such early success with the plot, was very agreeable to the Duchefs; he was supplied without regard to expence, and conducted himself with the adroitness of the most experienced spy; the witnesses Mrs. Cradock, and Mrs. Phillips were the principal aim; they were so pleased with his sociable disposition as to shew him great respect; he gained from their conversation every iota of the nature of their evidence; they furnished him with a true history of his notable employer, who had enjoined him to give her a faithful account as often as he could; he furnished her therewith two or three times a week, by fixed meetings with an agent, the third and only person in the scheme, who was then resident at Kingston House; at some of those meetings the Duchefs was a party. This scheme was carried on for some weeks, and the Duchefs having possessed herself of the nature of their evidence, which in fact was no more than she knew before, a new project was suggested, not of the most delicate nature: "I think, Sir, it is possible to entice them

“ to a play, which accomplished, propose
 “ a supper; they are fond of a cheerful
 “ glafs, notwithstanding their age; I am fure
 “ they will consent; there are houfes of en-
 “ tertainment in that neighbourhood con-
 “ venient for the purpose; get them in-
 “ toxicated and put to bed; a fudden change
 “ might be effected; in all events get them
 “ once in that ftate, my purpose may be
 “ completed.”——The Duchefs was now
 propofing a plan to a man who faw some-
 thing aimed at he did not relifh; his prin-
 ciples were not in unity with his employer;
 he viewed his original engagement as fair
 game, as fuch juftifiable; — however, pos-
 fefling a quick conception, he difcovered no
 ideas contrary to the Duchefs’s views; he
 acquiefced; the plan was accordingly fettled,
 but never purfued; and holding himfelf
 not criminal by perfuading her to believe
 he had propofed an excursion to the play-
 houfe, which they would by no means agree
 to till the trial was over, the project was
 given up.

We are now arrived at the week previous
 to her trial; he continued his quarters at

Tatterfal's till the second day of the trial, when pretending to have received advice that his brother was confined to his bed in a dangerous illness, he was obliged to take leave of his unsuspecting friends, with whom he had remained near six weeks, discharged his bill, and set off for Shropshire.—He had conducted this business with a skill which met with the Duchess's hearty approbation, and notwithstanding the heavy expence which attended it, she departed from her accustomed mode, by not disputing any one article of his accounts; they were balanced without a murmur:—it must be observed, that when he first engaged, he was to have a handsome pecuniary gratification at the conclusion; the pecuniary part was departed from, in other respects he received a profusion of promises:—he was by trade a jeweller, and being an ingenious mechanic, she declared her intentions to put him in a mode of making his fortune; he was questioned if he would like to go abroad; he replied in the affirmative, “ Then, Sir, I will take you
 “ to Petersburgh, my interest with the Em-
 “ press

“ prefs and nobility are great, your good
 “ fortune is certain, it is the only spot where
 “ men of genius flourish; in the mean
 “ time I will employ you to assist Captain
 “ Harding in attending on the various
 “ tradesmen employed in furnishing my
 “ ship, I am sure you will do all in your
 “ power to accelerate that business; the
 “ captain is a good man, and will be happy
 “ to be assisted with your abilities, and I
 “ will take you with me to Petersburgh
 “ as my steward.” He entered on his new
 employment, and continued his assistance to
 the captain’s satisfaction.—The ship com-
 pleted and launched, he went in her as
 steward, and arrived at Petersburgh, where
 he resided a considerable time without the
 least prospect of succeeding, as he had been
 persuaded to expect; her behaviour to him-
 self and every one dependant on her was in-
 tolerable, and none met her favour who
 could not bear with the most degrading im-
 positions: she had now assumed the conduct
 of an arbitrary Russian, dispossessed of
 every principle of honour and humanity: he

ex-

experienced her infamous treatment, and solicited a settlement, which he at last accomplished by arbitration, but not without the unwearied interference of some English gentleman resident there, whom she most shamefully endeavoured to baffle: they saw her disposition; a sum was agreed on far short of his just demands, (all reward was banished) he was advised to submit and return to England, which he did in the best manner he was able.

. To return: the only measure left was the best possible arrangement of matters preparatory for the trial. On the *fifteenth* day of April, 1776, the business came on in Westminster Hall. It was of five days *

con-

* On the fourth of these days, the *late Lady Harrington*, of amorous memory, being among other Peereffes, in her box, was presented by Mr. Evelyn Meadows, the real prosecutor of the Ducheſs, with some *flowers*. *Lady Harrington* thanked him for the compliment, and, in return ſaid, “ *I hope in God I ſhall be able to preſent you ſhortly with “ the LAUREL.*” The ſame Lady, on the firſt day of the trial, when the Ducheſs appeared at the bar, made uſe of this ejaculation:

continuance, and the principal object argued was, the admission, or not, of a sentence of the Spiritual Court, in a suit for jactitation of marriage, so as to stop the proof of a marriage, in an indictment for polygamy *. The judges deciding against the

tion : “ *The Devil confound her ! How brazen the wretch looks !* ” This, from LADY HARRINGTON, was truly ludicrous.

* This was the point on which rested the whole of the case. The sentence of the Ecclesiastical Court, was the only thing which could be offered, on the part of the Duehess, as a plea in bar to evidence. If it were admissible in this shape, there remained a doubt, how far such a sentence ought to be of any validity, provided it had been collusively obtained. To have both these particulars resolved into a certainty, the two following questions were submitted to the Judges for their opinion :

First. “ Whether a sentence of the Spiritual Court, against a marriage, in a suit for jactitation of marriage, is conclusive evidence so as to stop the Counsel for the Crown from proving the said marriage, in an indictment for polygamy ? ”

Second. “ Whether, admitting such sentence to be conclusive upon such indictment, the Counsel for
“ the

admission of such a sentence, in bar to evidence,

“ the Crown may be admitted to avoid the effect of
 “ such sentence, by proving the same to have been
 “ obtained by fraud, or collusion ? ”

The decision of the Judges, on both these questions, was substantially as followeth. To the *first* point propounded, the answer was, “ That the ground of the
 “ judicial powers possessed by the Ecclesiastical Courts,
 “ is merely of a spiritual consideration, *pro correctione*
 “ *morum, et pro salute animæ ; for the correction of*
 “ *morals, and for the salvation of the soul.* But the
 “ great object of temporal jurisdiction is, the public
 “ peace, and crimes against the public peace are
 “ wholly, and in all their parts, of temporal cognizance—alone. The temporal courts alone can ex-
 “ pound the law, and judge of the crimes, and its
 “ proofs ; in doing so, they must see with their own
 “ eyes, and try by their own rules, that is, by the
 “ Common Law of the land. Besides, a sentence in
 “ a cause of jactitation, has only a negative, and a
 “ *qualified* effect. It pronounceth, that the party boasting of a marriage, has failed in his proof, and that
 “ the libellant is free from all matrimonial contract, *as*
 “ *far as yet appears ;* leaving it open to new proofs
 “ of the same marriage, in the same cause, or to any
 “ proofs of that or any other marriage, in another
 “ cause ; and if such sentence is no plea to a new suit
 “ there, and doth not conclude the Court which pro-
 “ nounceth,

dence, the fact of the two marriages was
most

“ nounceth, it cannot conclude a Court, which re-
 “ ceives the sentence, from going into new proofs to
 “ make out that, or any other marriage. So that,
 “ admitting the sentence in its full extent and im-
 “ port, it only proves, that *it did not yet appear* that
 “ the parties were married, and not that they *were not*
 “ *married at all*: and by the rule laid down by Lord
 “ Chief Justice *Holt*, such sentence can be no proof
 “ of any thing to be inferred by argument from it;
 “ and, therefore, it is not to be inferred, that there
 “ was no marriage, at any time or place, because the
 “ Court *had not then* sufficient evidence to prove a
 “ marriage at a particular time and place. That sen-
 | tence and this judgment may stand well together,
 “ and both propositions be equally true: It may be
 “ true, that the Spiritual Court *had not then* sufficient
 “ proof of the marriage specified; and, that your
 “ Lordships *may now*, unfortunately, find sufficient
 “ proof of some marriage.”

To the *second* point propounded, the Judges rested
 their opinion on the subsequent, among other forcible
 reasons. “ But, if the sentence were direct, and de-
 “ cise on the point, and as it stands, to be admitted
 “ as conclusive evidence on the Court, and not to be
 “ impeached from within; yet, like all other acts of
 “ the highest judicial authority, it is impeachable
 “ from without; although it be not permitted to shew

“ that

most clearly proved, and a conviction, of course, followed*. The Duchess was on her trial

“ that the Court was *mistaken*, it may be shewn that
 “ they were *mised*. *Fraud* is an extrinsic collateral
 “ act, which vitiates the most solemn proceedings of
 “ Courts of Justice. Lord *Coke* says, it avoids all ju-
 “ dicial acts, ecclesiastical or temporal. *Collusion*,
 “ being a matter extrinsic of the cause, may be im-
 “ puted by a stranger, and tried by a Jury, and de-
 “ termined by the Courts of Temporal Jurisdiction.
 “ We (*the Judges*) are, therefore, unanimously of
 “ opinion :

First, “ That a sentence in the Spiritual Court
 “ against a marriage, in a suit of jactitation of mar-
 “ riage, is *not conclusive evidence*, so as to stop the
 “ Counsel for the Crown proving the marriage, in an
 “ indictment for polygamy.

“ But, *secondly*, admitting such sentence *to be con-*
 “ clusive upon such indictment, the Counsel for the
 “ Crown may be admitted to avoid the effect of such
 “ sentence, by proving the same to have been ob-
 “ tained by *fraud or collusion*.”

* The Duchess being called to the bar, and in-
 formed of her conviction, by the *Lord High Steward*,
 she delivered a paper, praying the benefit of the pecr-
 age, according to the Statutes. On which, the pre-
 sent Chancellor, then *Attorney General*, displayed his
 commanding powers, in a speech replete with legal
 learning,

trial attended by Mrs. EGERTON, whose husband was of the Bridgewater family; Mrs. BARRINGTON, widow of General Barrington, a brother of the Peer of that name; the late Doctor ISAAC SCHOMBERG, and the present

learning, and directed to demonstrate, “ That a
 “ *Peerefs*, convicted as the prisoner had been, could,
 “ *on no other grounds*, avoid Judgment of Death, but
 “ by claiming the benefits of the Statute of the *Third*
 “ and *Fourth* of *William and Mary*; which left her
 “ in a condition to be *burnt in the hand*, or *imprisoned*.” This occasioned the following question to be submitted to the Judges :

“ Whether a *Peerefs* convicted by her Peers, of a
 “ clergyable felony, is by law entitled to the benefit
 “ of the Statutes, so as to excuse her, from capital punishment, without being burnt in the hand, or
 “ being liable to any imprisonment ?”

The Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, having conferred with the rest of the Judges present, delivered their unanimous opinion upon the said question, assigning also his reasons. The opinion was,
 “ That a *Peerefs* convicted of a clergyable felony,
 “ praying the benefit of the Statute, the *first* of *Edward VIth*, is not only excused from capital punishment, but ought to be immediately discharged,
 “ *without being burnt in the hand, or liable to any imprisonment.*”

Doctor

Doct^r WARREN. One extraordinary method the Duchess took to sustain her spirits ; which was, to lose a certain quantity of blood almost every time in which she was ordered to withdraw from the bar.

The solemn business being concluded, the prosecutors had a plan in embryo to confine the Countess of BRISTOL (for so, after conviction, she in reality was) to this country ; and to have her deprived of her personal property. A writ of "*Ne exeat regno*"* was preparing, of which the Lady received private notice, and being
advised

* This information was given by the late Mr. Wallace, her chief and directing law counsel ; he came early in the morning very privately, having left his carriage at Grosvenor-gate, walked on till he came to Hyde-park-wall, opposite to Kingston-house, where there is most generally ladders placed to get over by the publican at the Half-way-house. The operation of such a writ she did not relish, and immediately quitted her house for *Dover*.—Whether such a writ was preparing, many of her friends doubted ; at that time the valuable personals were out of the kingdom ; they viewed the information in no other way than a
manœuvre

advised instantaneously to leave the kingdom, she caused her carriage to be driven about the most public streets of the metropolis, invited a select party to dine at Kingston-house, the better to cover her design, while, in an hired post-chaise, she travelled to Dover. Mr. HARDING, the Captain of her yacht, was there, and he conveyed her in the first open boat that could be procured, to Calais. The *Hotel d'Angleterre* was chosen as the place of residence, and, on her Grace entering the Court-yard, Mons. DESSEIN received her with more complaisance than cordiality; for, in France, the conviction was understood to have deprived her of all her possessions, real and personal. DESSEIN, therefore, indicated his pity of her fate by a significant shrug of his shoulders. He was
 “ highly honoured in the choice she had
 “ made of his hotel; but, *Mon Dieu!*—
 “ How unfortunate it was, that he could

manceuvre to get rid of her; she was a great plague to her lawyers, absolutely expecting their attention to no other concerns but her affairs.

“ not

“ not accommodate her with a suite of
 “ rooms! Had he only been apprised of
 “ her intention to do him the favour!
 “ Now, a single apartment was all the
 “ accommodation in his power.”

She was fatigued in body and mind.
 Rest, therefore, even in a room on the
 attic story, would have been the most wel-
 come solacer in the bounty of Heaven to
 bestow.

While the DUCHESS, for so she must be
 still styled, for the sake of uniformity in the
 narrative, was retired, DESSEIN contrived
 means to investigate the state of her finances,
 and being informed that she was still in the
 receipt of her estates, he, the morning after
 her arrival, brightened up his features, and
 was the happiest being on earth to acquaint
 her, that “ the company who had occupied
 “ apartments suitable in every respect *pour*
 “ *Madame la Duchesse*, were gone to Paris,
 “ and consequently, they were devoted to
 “ her use, if she should so please.” This
obedience answered DESSEIN’s purpose. She
 remained at his *hotel* long enough to lend
 him

him a *thousand pounds*, when, being her debtor, he complained of her parsimony, and compelled her, by disrespectful treatment, to seek another abode. The money lent DESSEIN is not wholly repaid at this hour. The only accommodation which the DUCHESS could ever obtain was, to take the demand out in fire-wood. If a *pun* be excusable, this was a *burning* shame in Monsieur DESSEIN.

As YORICK justly observeth, "They *manage* these things *better* in *France*." The *politesse* of our Gallic neighbours is certainly a most powerful aid to their projects. Monsieur DESSEIN has that happy composure of features, bows so respectfully, and is, apparently, so much the devoted humble servant of every body, that it is not surprising he should have wormed himself into the general favour of English travellers. The Duchess, with all her pretensions to the gift of penetrating characters, was grossly duped by the keeper of her *Hotel*; yet was the imposition so smoothly effected, that DESSEIN and her Grace never rencountered each

each other without parting the dearest friends in the world; she, with a gracious inclination of her head, only requesting it as a favour that more fire-wood might be sent in to lessen her demand; and he, with a semi-circular bow of his body, assuring her that a Magazine was at her command. This reciprocity of deceit was practised whenever Calais became the occasional or the stationary residence of the Dukes; and it being foreseen that such residence would be frequent, an habitation, affording some degree of comfort, was sought for, and obtained.

MONSIEUR COCOVE * had formerly held a commanding post at Calais; he was in constitution,

* This Gentleman was for many years, PRESIDENT of CALAIS; and, the only fault ever imputed to him, in that honourable station, was, *too great a partiality for the English*. If there were to be a favour extended to any individual of our nation, the *President of Calais* was sure to accompany that favour by some act of liberality originating from himself. MONSIEUR COCOVE died at his country seat, which is situated at a little distance from *Calais*, between that place and

stitution, habits, and appearance, an Englishman. The habits of our country he had acquired by residing some time among us, and, during that residence, he had mixed with the first circles. The old Marquis of GRANBY had been his intimate friend and associate. When the Duchefs fled to Calais, COCOVE was sequestered at a little paternal seat within a few miles, being restricted to that, as his place of residence, conformable to the usage of France with respect to persons of landed property who are involved. COCOVE had an house in Calais, which his wife and family, amounting to three sons, and four daughters, occupied. The Duchefs treated for the purchase of this house, and it was agreed to be sold her for one thousand pounds, with permission to the family to occupy one side of the quadrangle. The

St. Omer, leaving a widow who had been the *best of wives*, and an amiable progeny, who only contended in a virtuous struggle, who most should promote the happiness of the *best of mothers*. This lady is since dead. The offspring are living, and universally admired for their amiabilities of mind and person.

Duchefs

Duchess took possession; and, as her ordinary custom was, she began to pull the greatest part of the old mansion about her ears, threw out a room with a bow-window, which projected over the *privies* belonging to the soldiers barracks; and that her visitors might only indulge a standing posture, this saloon, as she called it, was left without a chair. The *Cocove family* next engaged her attention, and before she had seen the half of them, she promised to make them all happy. The girls she astonished with a sight of her diamonds, and her wardrobe; with the boys she conversed about the heroic deeds of her great-grandfather, throwing in occasional hints, that

“ commissions in the army would be comfortable things, and particularly in the

“ French service, which was so highly honourable under the reigning Monarch,

“ for whom she had a prodigious regard.

“ She loved the King of France, and she

“ was very confident he had a regard for

“ her.” *Sans doute, Madame la Duchesse;*

“ *le Roi connus bien.*” “ Yes—your King

“ knows I love him. I have given a proof
 “ of it in preferring to spend my fortune in
 “ his country, although *my dear friend*,
 “ the *King of Prussia*, has given me the
 “ warmest invitation to reside at *Berlin*.”

This sincere veneration for the Gallic Monarch would, with equal sincerity, have been transferred to the Cham of Tartary, if his dominion had been the chosen place of refuge.

1776, Oct. 15th. The Duchefs quitted Calais, intending to go to Rome through Vienna.

Nov. 11. Arrived at Munich, at which city she met with her good friend, the late Dowager Electress of Saxony, who was then on a visit to her brother, the then Elector of Bavaria; the exiled Prince Radziville was also at Munich, accompanied by a Polish Count.

During her stay at Munich, a new title was proposed, and afterwards obtained by the Dowager Electress of her brother, the Elector of Bavaria, by the title of Countess of Warth, in that Electorate: here

was also laid a plan for a correspondence to be opened with the Grand Maitresse at Vienna, in order for the Duchess to be introduced to the Empress, as Duchess of Kingston, on her arrival at Vienna, in case Sir Robert Murray Keith should refuse. [This ceremony was dispensed with at Munich, on the score of impropriety, prior to her being honoured with that ceremony at Vienna.]

20th. Left Munich, and on the

28th. Arrived at Vienna, after a very fatiguing journey, a fall of snow having rendered the roads almost impassable. In a few days the Duchess experienced, that the plan of introduction, as settled at Munich, had failed. The Grand Maitresse having refused to interfere, the Duchess wrote her on the subject, and received a very mortifying answer, viz. That the Empress would not receive her, unless presented by the English Ambassador. By letter she applied to his Excellency: he came to her with the greatest politeness, and, as a friend, admonished her to desist from persevering

in requesting him to present her as Duchess of Kingston, for he could not do it without an order from the Court of Great Britain. She then shewed him letters from the Dukes of Ancafter and Newcastle, the Earls of Hillsborough and Peterborough, and Lord Barrington, who had every one addressed her as Duchess of Kingston. These, he said, were no authority for him to introduce her by that stile ; but he should have no objection to present her as Countess of Bristol, and render every act of friendship to make her situation at Vienna convenient and agreeable. This title she treated with the greatest contempt: his admonition failing, in the most polite and friendly manner he took leave, and departed. Her ambitious spirit now burst forth with the greatest fury, by publicly declaring, “ that
 “ he should present, and represent her to
 “ the Imperial court of Vienna as Du-
 “ chess Dowager of Kingston, without de-
 “ rogating, or taking from any of her
 “ honors, as a Peerefs of Great Britain ;
 “ and that he should answer the contrary
 “ at

“ at the Bar of the House of Lords, for
 “ a breach of privilege.” A notice in the
 above language was framed for his Excel-
 lency : from this measure she was advised to
 desist ; and being unable to prevail on her
 English Secretary, or any other person, to pre-
 sent it, this resolution dropped. Application
 was then made to the Nuncio, whom she per-
 sonally knew. A messenger was dispatched
 to Rome, for his Holiness the present Pope
 to interfere, by requesting the Nuncio to
 mention the Duchess’s wishes to the Em-
 press. The messenger soon returned with
 his Holiness’s request ; but this interfer-
 ence had no effect on her Imperial Majesty.
 During this interval, the Duchess took ano-
 ther ground, affirming that an influence
 had been exercised by the King of England,
 among some leading Peers, whereby he
 had succeeded in biasing their Lordships
 determination ; and to promote this idea,
 a new step was taken to shew their Lord-
 ships’ partiality, by getting the sentence of
 the Consistory Court in Doctors Commons
 translated into Latin and French, by which

sentence it was declared she was free from all matrimonial contract, or espousals with Mr. Hervey, and also a translation of the most favourable part of her Trial before the House of Lords, in order that it might appear to the German nobility and gentry, that an undue influence had succeeded; the consequence of which was their Lordships unjust determination of the 22d of April, 1776. When these translations were completed, clerks were employed to transcribe copies at the Hotel, her residence, during which interval her apartments appeared like public offices, day and night, for a considerable time. A great number of copies were delivered at Vienna, and sent to every person of consequence within twenty miles. But it must be observed, before these copies were completed, a letter had been received from England, to apprise her of what was going forward in Doctors Commons, in order that the determination might not come upon her unexpectedly. This advice occasioned much perplexity in the Duchess's

chess's mind, fearing that such determination would appear in the English newspapers at Vienna, and thereby prove her Translation to be composed of the most daring untruths. Here her usual genius assisted; and, never at a loss for satanical projects, she made up the matter to her mind; and strange, though true to tell, the German mail was procured to be opened before it arrived at Vienna, and every newspaper taken out of the same, except the English Ambassador's, his packet being too sacred to be violated: every paper her own hands committed to the flames; and so soon as she heard that the letters were delivered from the post-office, and that the Ambassador's packet had been delivered at his house, her English secretary was immediately dispatched to his Excellency's office, signifying her anxiety to read the English newspaper, not having received one, a disappointment she had never before experienced, and to request the favour of seeing his paper: this his Excellency, most civilly, immediately complied with; her Grace, our readers

will judge, was not so immediately in haste to return it; and two days elapsed before her Grace deigned to return it, and then not without a pressing message for that purpose, which at a moment could not be complied with, it being mislaid: but after an hour's search, she gives her secretary in a violent hurry a newspaper, folded up, desires him to go immediately with her compliments to his Excellency, and acquaint him how uneasy she was at being so remiss, but relied on his good nature to excuse it. This message was delivered in a most plaintive tone, accompanied with an apprehension that a fit of sickness would be the consequence. The secretary was desired to return with the greatest haste. He directly put the paper in his pocket, went with precipitancy, left the paper with the above message, and returned home, when he found the Duchess in good spirits, the sick qualm having left her: but on his Excellency looking at the paper, it proved to be an old one. A messenger came to inform her secretary of this mistake:

mistake : of this he acquainted the Duchess : another search was made without effect ; her Grace then concluded that some person on seeing it (there being no other in Vienna) had taken it away. Under this idea, the unsuspecting Secretary waited on his Excellency, and represented the matter as it really appeared to him, that some person had taken it away ; on which his Excellency replied, he saw how the matter was ;—that himself and her secretary had been imposed on ; and with the greatest good nature said, he was sorry it had happened, and desired his respectful compliments.

The expected determination, in fact, was in these newspapers to the effect following, viz. Friday, the 20th of February, “ Dr. Bettsworth had declared by his sentence, that the marriage with Lord Bristol had been fully established in the same manner as before the Lords, and that such marriage was strictly legal.”—This cause was brought as an introduction to a divorce, to be sued out against her on the score of adultery, which Lord Bristol could not do, prior to

proving his marriage with her, as she was before this hearing recognized as wife of the late Duke of Kingston, and not of the Earl of Bristol.

The above determination, had it appeared at this juncture at Vienna, would have been the most damning proof against her; but however, so far she had succeeded in preventing it appearing for the present, or at least while she remained there.

Translations had been delivered to the Empress and her son, the present Emperor—Sycophants and toad-eaters were continually buzzing about her; costly entertainments were made, and the Duchess was fed with the expectation of hourly receiving a letter from the Grand Maitresse, announcing the Empress's good opinion, and willingness to receive her Grace with the greatest friendship on the next day of Gala: with this assurance, a suitable dress was immediately ordered for her to appear in, and also for her suite. But this happy day never arrived, to gratify the wishes of the ambitious Duchess; the virtuous and immortal Maria Theresa and her son

son Joseph were inexorable; neither the intercession of the mitred chief, nor a host of flatterers could prevail, even after they had read her translation of the trial and sentence of the high and respectable tribunal of the Peers of Great Britain, biased, as it was said to be, through the influence of the ornament of Sovereigns.

This disappointment she pretended affected her so much, that a fit of sickness must be the consequence; this farce was wonderfully well performed for the greatest part of three weeks, by keeping her bed, and procuring it to be announced that her life was in danger; but, alas! this manœuvre failed; for notwithstanding her emissaries had confidentially whispered an enquiry by the Empress after the poor Duchess's health, an invitation to the Court never arrived, and her Grace was under the necessity of recovering, which a sudden change of milder weather, and the frost beginning to break, soon effected.

The Duchess having received advice that her enemies in England were proceeding rigorously in the Court of Chancery, and
that

that the Court expected she would put in an immediate answer, for which purpose a commission would be sent to Paris, she was under the necessity of laying aside her intended route to Rome, and return to Paris.

During the Carnival at Vienna, the Duchess appeared at the masquerade, in the masque of a magician; and at that entertainment she received from a mask in a domino, an insult, which gave her the greatest uneasiness; the mask was male, and said to be the Imperial Joseph; nevertheless, whoever it was, she never declared the expression; and whatever it was, her mind was so hurt, that she left the room, and returned home much disconcerted.

The Duchess was preparing to leave Vienna, and had actually got into her coach; but having left a tradesman's bill unpaid, on account of a difference of between three and four ducats, which the man had insisted was just, her Grace would not pay any part of his bill, notwithstanding he had proposed to have the same taxed by tradesmen, or settled by magistrates: to this she would not listen; and the dispute rested in that state till the day

day she intended to leave Vienna and bill: him. The time of her departure the man got scent of, and accordingly, on the instant the coach was setting off, a party of soldiers surrounded the carriage, aided by an officer of the law, who arrested her, and she was obliged to alight. A guard was placed over the carriage and baggage. This disgrace, by some minds would have been severely felt, but in the Duchefs, it only served to heighten her baseness; for, instead of preventing her detention, by immediately discharging the bill, (which had been allowed to be just by all who saw it) her Grace determined to litigate the claim; and submitted to be detained three days for that purpose, when she was condemned to pay the full amount of the bill, with all costs and expences.

N. B. In these countries, law proceedings are carried on in a very summary way.

This business finished, at an extraordinary expence of 200 ducats, her departure was finally concluded on, when she proceeded on her return to Paris with the utmost expedition, at which city having put in her

answer, she remained there about three weeks, and returned to Calais in the month of April.

As it was the lot of the Duchefs to be perpetually on the remove, some incidents had happened at Rome, of which she received advice, which rendered it necessary for her once more to visit that renowned city. In the Public Bank she had deposited her plate, for safety, when she set out for England; and in her palace she had left a renegade Spanish Friar, and an English girl, whom she had carried to Italy, on her last expedition. The girl was handsome, and had a sense of prudence, aided by that prejudice against foreigners, which the lower orders of this, and of most other countries, possess. A CARDINAL, who, for the honour of the Holy See, shall be nameless, had frequently laid aside the pomp and sanctity of Spirituals, betraying a *thorn* in the *flesh*, stiled by *St. Paul* the "*Messenger of Satan*," with the buffetings of which his *Eminence* was well acquainted. His visits to the palace of the Duchefs were frequent;
the

the pretence always was, a something particular to communicate to her Grace, and a consequent inquisitiveness about her return. The FRIAR, however, smoked the CARDINAL, and the Cardinal, in return, was jealous of the Friar. The poor girl, who understood not a syllable of any other language than that of her country, found herself extremely embarrassed. The FRIAR knew English enough for an ordinary conversation, and, in the true style of a ghostly adviser, he cautioned the girl against the designs of the Cardinal. Whether from real dislike, or from the not being able to have a verbal intercourse, the overtures of the Cardinal were rejected, and whenever he came to the palace she left him, if his Eminence so pleased, to make love to the Friar. Thus getting rid of a rival, the Friar plied his arts so successfully, as to occasion one bed to be the only necessary convenience for the two inmates of the palace to sleep in. Having accomplished this end, the Friar deemed it a pity that such of the moveables as were easily portable, should

should remain in an useless state ; converted into cash, they might circulate to the benefit of society. Under an impression so charitable to the world, he walked off with what he could carry, beside disposing of quantities of articles to different purchasers. The poor girl was only left with a consolation, that what she had read in the Bible about "*Increase and multiply*," was likely to be fulfilled by her. It was of these transactions the Ducheſs was informed by letters. The neceſſity of her immediate journeying to Rome was urgent, and ſhe ſet out as ſoon as ſhe could expedite the neceſſary preparations.

During her travel, an illneſs excepted, not any particular occurrence happened. On her arrival being known, CARDINAL ALBANI waited on her, to whom ſhe communicated the particulars of the behaviour of the Friar, prudently reſerving the circumſtance of the attack made by one of the Cardinal's brotherhood, on the chaſtity of the girl. Her ſituation was not the preſent object of thought. The queſtion was, how.

how the property embezzled by the Friar could be re-obtained? The girl sobbed, shed tears in abundance, on her knees intreated forgiveness; but, with all this submissive penitence, she could scarcely obtain the attention of a moment. “ You must have known the Friar broke open the escritoire. Where are the candlesticks? What! is all the linen gone? *By the living God*, he has stripped the palace!” The girl, whose *thriving* situation wholly engrossed her thoughts, still pressed her suit. —“ Indeed, your Grace, I did not consent—I was fast asleep when the Friar came into my room. He took hold——” —“ I wish he had hold of you this moment, and that you were both in the galleys. What is all your nonsense to my property? Could not you play the fool together, without stripping me? The diamond buckle of my *dear Lord Duke!* The devil confound the villain! Go along, like a hussy as you are. Stay —I’ll have you punished, unless you find the rascally Friar.” Here a message of
con-

condolence from his Holiness was notified, and the messenger being ordered in, the style was thus varied—"What I have lost
 " is of considerable value; but, to take
 " advantage of a poor innocent young
 " creature, is more distressful to me than
 " the trifles he has taken. *My dearest*
 " *Lord* left me an ample fortune, and I
 " wish to make others happy with it. This
 " unfortunate girl I took from a child, and
 " meant to have provided for her as a mo-
 " ther. I forgive her, poor thing! My
 " most humble and dutiful respects to his
 " Holiness. *Helas!* [*a sigh*] when I think
 " on my troubles, they almost overwhelm
 " me. With my *dear Duke* [*tears*] every
 " happiness was buried. But God is all-
 " sufficient. His Holiness knows not how
 " I have been persecuted; but I forgive
 " my persecutors. *Poor Belisarius!* how
 " ungenerously was he treated! I often
 " thought of him during my persecution."
 The messenger retiring, the inquest as to
 what were lost, and the probability of re-
 covery, was instantly resumed; until all
 hope

hope of re-obtaining the valuables becoming visionary, to get the plate out of the publick bank, and transport it safely from Italy, was the sole object of negociation, in which the Duchess proving successful, she returned to Calais, and the robbery of the Friar became one of her ordinary tales.

On the return of the Duchess from Rome, the expeditious communication between Calais and England afforded the earliest intelligence she could wish relative to the proceedings of her opponents. Their business was now, if possible, to set aside the will of the Duke of Kingston. There was not a probability of their succeeding in the attempt, but still the attempt was to be made. This kept alive the apprehension of danger in the mind of the Duchess; and so long as that apprehension subsisted, it was necessary, in policy, to affect a particular regard for certain persons in England, who had the apparent power of rendering a service. The late Sir GEORGE HAYE was at that time DEAN of the ARCHES. Not more from the eminence of his situation than from the
splendor

splendor of his abilities, his rank was high in the public esteem. Doctor ISAAC SCHOMBERG had been a cotemporary with Sir George at Merchant Taylor's seminary. Through life they loved each other. The opinion of Sir George, as to the impeachability of the Duke of Kingston's will, was frequently wanted; and through the intermediation of Doctor Schomberg, this was obtained. Sir George Haye from the first ridiculed the attempt to set aside the will as a futility. Schomberg, however, desirous of obtaining the fullest confirmation of the case, pressed Sir George to dictate a few lines on the subject, in a letter which he proposed to send to the Duchess.—“ Well, “ Isaac, (said Sir George) I will. Let the “ Duchess desire her *common lawyers* to at- “ tack the *rock of Gibraltar*.” Schomberg, on this, caused every consolatory assurance to be transmitted to the Duchess. She received it, and professed every feeling which gratitude could inspire. “ Doctor SCHOM- “ BERG was an honourable character! too “ honourable for this world! The counter- “ part

“ part of her *dear Lord* in nobleness of
 “ soul ! She wished she could *make him*
 “ *happy !*” As a splendid return for his
 real anxiety to have her mind at ease, this
 was the gracious manner of her procedure :

One morning Doctor SCHOMBERG was
 waited on at his apartments in Conduit-
 street, and a present from the Duchefs of
 Kingston was delivered him. This present
 was a ring, brilliantly encircled, the stone
 a deep blue, and the words “ *Pour l’ Amitié,*”
 on the stone. The intrinsic value was never
 once considered by Schomberg ; it was the pre-
 sumeable tribute of gratitude which affected
 his mind. He wore the ring, and, in al-
 most every company, proclaimed the donor.
 But a short portion of time elapsed, before
 one of the brilliants in the word “ *Amitié*”
 fell out, as if the very mention of *friend-*
ship by the Duchefs, were sufficient to ren-
 der the term *fragile* : to have a substitute re-
 placed, a Jeweller was sent for. When he
 came, he looked first at the ring, then at
 Doctor Schomberg, and, on being asked,
 “ When he could do what was necessary ?”
 the

the Jeweller answered, " I hope you will
 " not be offended, Sir, but it is really not
 " worth your while to have any thing done;
 " the middle stone is a composition, and
 " the whole did not cost more, in Paris,
 " than *six-and-thirty shillings!*" " Is that
 " the case," said the Doctor, " then I will
 " soon dispose of it." He first trampled the
 contemptible bauble under his feet, then
 flung it out of the window, saying, "*There*
 "*goes Nobility.*"

Previous to her trial, the DUCHESS had
 formed a design to visit Petersburg. A
 ship had been built for her, containing
 every splendid accommodation. There
 was a drawing-room, a dining-parlour, kit-
 chen, and other conveniences. This ship
 attracted, as may be supposed, general ob-
 servation; and the Russian Ambassador
 being given to understand that the whole had
 been intended as a conveyance of the
 Duchess, on a visit to so august a sovereign
 as the Empress of Russia, the politesse of
 Courts compelled an acknowledgment, on
 [his part, that the compliment would be
 graciously

graciously received. But there was something more than the mere compliment of a visit. Her Grace had some pictures, of considerable value, which devolved to her on the demise of the Duke. These she had offered as a present to the Empress, who had deigned to accept them. The shipping them for Petersburgh, that they might be conveyed from where they ought to have remained, to whither they should not have been sent, had occasioned as many conferences between the Duchess and the Russian Ambassador, as would have been requisite to adjust the differences of Europe. At last, however, a cargo of pictures, and other valuable articles, cleared the river, and arrived safe at Petersburgh. The Empress disposed of them as accorded with her fancy, and her Ambassador was charged, in her name, to notify her pleasure. The Duchess, in this, was a copyist of the Eastern customs. Her presence was accompanied by a present, the better to ensure a favourable reception.

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To convey her Grace to Petersburg, the ship which had been built for the purpose, was ordered to Calais. It arrived there, and HARDING, the commander of her yacht, was considered as the Captain. In that capacity he superintended the preparations, and did every thing requisite in a man of honesty. An obstruction, however, arose, and that of a serious nature: the American war subsisted. Under what colours should the Duchess sail, so as to be the surest of protection? CUNNINGHAM,* an American marine adventurer, had just taken one of the Holland packets. Doctor FRANKLIN, then at Paris, was surrounded by a swarm of his countrymen, who only

* This man was merely an instrument. The project of capturing the Packet, was suggested by a Mr. Carmichael, an American assistant to Doctor Franklin, and afterwards "*Chargé des Affaires*," from the United States, at Madrid. The packet which Cunningham was directed to take, had a quantity of specie on board. Cunningham, by an Irish blunder, let that packet escape, and captured another which had only a cargo of passengers. Thus the object was defeated.

wished

wished for commissions to rove about the Channel. The intention of the Duchefs to embark, could not be concealed, nor the time of her failing. The capture of her ship, was considered as an enterprize worth attempting. It was supposed, that any sum demanded, would be paid for her ransom. Apprifed that fuch idea prevailed, the Duchefs applied, by letter, to the French Minifter, foliiciting protection under the colours of France. Her request being granted, Captain HARDING was informed of her intentions to hoift the French flag, and have her fhip manned by French failors. Harding had ferved in the Britifh navy, had diftinguifhed himfelf in action, was a brother of the Trinity Houfe; he felt himfelf a Briton, and, as fuch, failed into Calais Harbour under Englifh colours; this fhe happened to fee from her obfervatory, in company with Monsieur Bienaffize (the commandant of Calais) and fome others; fhe burft into a rage, exclaiming vehemently againft the Captain for the infult, and immediately gave orders that the paltry colours

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fould.

should be taken down, and a French flag displayed; for till then she would not set her foot on board.—This whim complied with, the English colours were brought to her house, and there ridiculously destroyed, saying, “This country shall never be disgraced “by such a paltry flag.” The yacht being safely moored, the Duchess immediately went on board, conducted by Harding, and went through every apartment, which seemed to give her satisfaction; but not a syllable was mentioned about the colours.

A few days elapsed in seeming tranquillity; the next business was to settle the Captain's accounts, when, to her eternal shame, all extra expences he had been at in entertaining her friends, while the ship was building at Limehouse, were disallowed. The Captain, in hopes at a future time to meet with her in better humour, acquiesced, and a mutual balance was struck. The Duchess having accomplished her favorite end in money manners, then announced having engaged a French captain (Lefevre) and if Harding chose to be continued, he must
submit

submit to a deduction of 100 l. a year; in this case he might have the joint command: this measure he could not relish; the Duchess, however, soothed him with great promises of her interest in his favor with the Empress of Russia; he swallowed the bait, and, with some reluctance, complied.—French sailors were then procured; but no sooner were they engaged for the voyage, than they threw an obstacle in the way,—there was no alternative—Lefevre's acceptance and nomination, a French crew, rendered Harding's situation too mortifying to be endured; the consequence was, he resigned his employ under the Duchess, and quitted Calais for Dover, where his family resided; he then, upon a moderate calculation, found himself a loser of not less than 600 l. by having thrown off an honorable and lucrative employ, when he first engaged with the Duchess;—the consequence was a depression of spirits, which in the vale of life, being unable to surmount, he at last expired with a broken heart.—This was her reward to a man who had discharged

his duty with the strictest fidelity. He it was who had been entrusted to convey her personal property of the greatest value out of England, and afterwards from Rome; his final reward was to have the master of a fishing-boat appointed his captain.

On her proposed voyage to Petersburg, the Duchess was to be accompanied by several persons, besides domestics, who were collectively to form a suite proper for an exalted personage, about to visit a sovereign power. The arrangement of this suite depending, of course, on the will of the Duchess, a whimsical assemblage of characters were blended. The Captain and Sailors of the ship being Frenchmen and *Roman Catholics*, a Chaplain of their language and persuasion was required, to perform the pious offices necessary for the welfare of their souls. To be supplied in this particular, the Duchess dispatched a letter to Paris, soliciting a Lady to recommend an Ecclesiastic, proper for the purpose. Among the different orders it was not a difficult matter to meet with a Priest of the *Order of Necessity*; and,

it being probable that such an one only would embark on so singular an expedition, the choice fell on Monsieur L'Abbé SECHAND *. Highly flattered by his appointment, a messenger was dispatched to Calais, with information that the *Abbé* would set out for that place immediately. The Duchess, to whom a new face, and a novel adventure, afforded great delight, received the glad tidings with a joyful countenance; imparting to every visitor the elevated ideas she had formed of a person, whom *she had never seen*, and, for whose transcendent abilities she vouched, in a most authoritative style, without being morally certain.

* This gentleman, after scrambling his way, as it were, from Petersburg to France, soon afterwards came to London, and now resides in the vicinity. His claim on the Duchess, like that of most other persons who had the meritorious pretension of relying on *her promises*, is not yet settled, and most probably it never will. When pressed to adjust it, she always asserted that she had paid him; but, he put the matter fairly to issue, by saying, that if she could produce a voucher for the payment of a single *sous*, he would abandon his demand. This she was not able to do.

that his mental endowments exceeded those of a common mechanic. At last, *Monfieur l'Abbé* arrived; for the sake of convenience, not much troubled with baggage, the *Diligence* being his carriage, and a violin his travelling companion. As this gentleman had the care of the souls of the Captain and mariners committed to his charge, to Mr. Foster was entrusted the direction of the *Duchefs* in spirituals. Two women, as attendants, a *coachman at sea*, and a footman *in a cabin*, completed their marine suite, with which the *Duchefs* sailed for Peterburgh. To say that she was grossly flattered on undertaking the expedition, would only be saying, that she was supposed to abound in wealth; for where is the rich without a flatterer? The voyage of the *Duchefs* was compared to the expedition of *Cleopatra*; a *Marc Anthony* only was wanting to render the comparison perfect.

Favoured by a wind which blew as the wishes of the *Duchefs* inclined, she arrived at *Elseneur* in twelve days from the time of her leaving Calais; and, delaying as little

as circumstances would permit, on her passage, she soon reached Petersburg. Her arrival being announced, her reception was certainly favourable*; the Empress dispensed with

* This favourable reception was caused by various concomitant circumstances. To be received, if possible, by some crowned head, was an object desirable, as the only means of relieving the Duchefs from the marked disgrace which her trial and conviction had affixed on her. The Court of Russia was chosen as the most distant; as the less likely to have the real character of the lady bared to inspection; and where considerable presents of *pictures* would be more acceptable to the Sovereign, in proportion as the arts were in a less advanced state of perfection. Accordingly, not only the Empress, but personages of the greatest influence, were complimented by the Duchefs. One instance, and an anecdote accompanying it, will exemplify the views and liberality of the donor.

Count Chernichoff was represented to the Duchefs as an exalted character, to whom she ought, in policy, to pay her particular *devoirs*. She felt the force of the representation, and sent him *two pictures*. As little skilled in painting, as in music, she was a total stranger to the value of these pieces. They happened to be *originals*, by *Raphael*, and *Claude Lorrain*. The Count was soon apprized of this; and on the arrival

with public forms, the interview between her Majesty and the Duchess being at the country palace, appropriated to the pur-

of the Duchess at Petersburg, he waited on her Grace; professed his thankfulness for the present, at the same time assuring the Duchess, "That the pictures were estimated at a value, in Russian money, amounting to *ten thousand pounds English*." The Duchess, who the moment before he let this secret escape from his lips, had arranged her features with a smile of complacency, instantly changed colour, and could, with the utmost difficulty, veil her chagrin. She told the *Count*, that "she had other pictures, which she should consider as an honour were he to accept them. That the two paintings in his possession, were particularly the favourites of her *departed Lord*; but that the Count was extremely gracious in permitting them to occupy a space in his palace, until her mansion was properly prepared for decoration." This manœuvre did not succeed. The Count has the pictures at this moment; and the Duchess, in her *will*, has actually introduced an *history of the manner* in which they became possessed by *Count Chérnichoff*; referring, at the same time, to the testimony of a *Mr. Moreau*, in proof of the paintings having been only committed to the care of the Count, in trust. Here is a *trait*, and a singular one it is, sufficient to mark the character of the heroine, whose narrative is the subject of these pages.

poses

poses of seclusion. The novelty of an English *lady*, braving the billows of the Baltic, and defying, as it were, the boisterous elements of the North, to pay a compliment to the reigning Sovereign, excited admiration in many, curiosity in all. This very curiosity and admiration were sufficient for the Duchess; gratifying her vanity, they compensated her toils. Still more, The Empress assigned a mansion for her residence. Her ship was commanded under the Government care; and an hurricane arising which occasioned it to suffer considerable damage, it was repaired by express order of the Empress. Here was happiness, if happiness for a mind at variance with itself, could be found on earth. Yet, this marked favour of the Empress could not entirely satisfy the Duchess. She was, and she felt herself to be an alien. The English Ambassador could only be complaisant to her in private*. She, therefore, began

* At that time Sir *James Harris*; who, because only externally civil, the Duchess affected to contemn, for

began to inquire, whether possession might not entitle her to command that respect, for which, at present, she was merely an eleemosynary debtor. There are ladies at the Court of Petersburg, who wear the *picture* of the *Empress*, as the ensign of an order. The Duchess was flattered, that landed property only was wanting to introduce her as one of this order. The *Empress* was her friend; what other interest could she desire? The hint was sufficient. She purchased an estate near Petersburg, for about *twelve thousand pounds*; gave it the name of *Chudleigh*, and, having executed her part of the agreement, which always was to pay, and leave others to enjoy, she

the parsimonious manner in which he entertained the factory. *Lady Harris* did not, of course, escape an oblique censure, when opportunity of casting it occurred. *Sir James*, at the Court of Petersburg, was in high estimation. That, as an able representative of Sovereign power, and a profound politician, he merited esteem, his late conduct, as an Ambassador to the United States of Holland, hath abundantly evidenced. By being ennobled, he hath only obtained the honours he deserved.

pushed

pushed her interest to be honoured with the order. The answer to her application for ever blasted her hopes. It was an invariable rule that *foreigners* could not be admitted. —What was to be done with the estate? Beside catching fish, and cutting down wood, it promised not to turn to any advantageous account. The Duchess, however, ever disposed to be misled when flattered by following her own inclination, was induced to believe, that a *fortune*, which she did not want, might be obtained by a means which she had not occasion to use, which was, the erection of works *for making BRANDY*. This was a whimsical transition of ideas, and such as could not easily be reconciled by an ordinary mind. A distiller of spirits, instead of the wearer of a pendent order of the picture of an Empress!

This disappointment in ambition, and, a final dislike of the distillery project, occasioned a resolution to return to Calais. Disputes in the household had also arisen, which caused this resolution to be more determined than ordinary. The salary of Mr.

FOSTER, a miserable pittance for a man of learning, being only *one hundred pounds a year*, was in arrears. Years and merit pleaded in vain. A trifle was the subject of dispute, and the Empress being informed of it, offered poor FOSTER a retreat for life, and he quitted the Duchess with this sarcasm, in the Spartan style, "*I am old, not mean.*" SECHAND next broke forth with vehemence. He had received more promises than there are numbers in the lottery, and not one of them had produced a prize. His salary was in arrears, and payment was formally demanded; agents on both sides interfered, but without effecting any thing. The Abbé, therefore, was left to seek his redress in France, and to get thither as well as his fortunate stars would assist him.

The Duchess, quitting Petersburg, left an English journeyman carpenter *, whom she

* This man was picked up, like most of the inferior officers of her household, by that species of accident which always recommended vagabonds to her notice.

she had made the steward of her household, to transact her affairs. At her *brandy-making* estate, in the country, another character, of similar description, as to lowness, was stationed. She had likewise picked up at Calais, when she went to Germany, a fellow who pretended to be a Colonel in the Imperial service, and who wanted to get to his wife and children at Vienna.—The Duchess took him with her; she accommodated him with a watch, as a loan; and also some rings and some cash: he took French leave at Munich, on hearing that prince Radziville was there, not wishing to see the prince,—The Colonel's name was Lienverville; his being in the Imperial service was a fiction:—his regiment was in the service of the King of Poland, to which country he immediately set off, which he was enabled to do by disposing of the watch and rings. Prince Radziville

By trade an ordinary carpenter; by her ridiculous whim converted into the managing steward of a palace, and, in her absence from Petersburg, entrusted with the care of personal property, of immense value.

at this time was a refugee in Bavaria; to this country he had fled, having formed a grand confederacy in Poland, for which a large sum was offered for his head. He appeared at Munich in a rich Turkish dress, and being a man of large stature, made a noble appearance: he had a faithful friend and companion, a Polish Count, his constant attendant during his exile. The Prince travelled with a chosen guard of troops called Heyduks, richly caparisoned, eight of whom every night mounted guard in the room adjoining to the chamber where he slept. He afterwards made a submission to the King of Poland, and returned to that country.

Returning once more to Calais, a considerable portion of time was engrossed by the Duchess, in relating to her admiring auditors each particular concerning the very gracious manner in which the Empress had deigned to receive her. A present from her Imperial Majesty, of an estate* situated on the *Neva*, was enlarged on with all the cir-

* This estate includes a tract of land of considerable value; and, it was the more peculiarly calculated for
the

circumlocutory eloquence, of which the relator was capable. The purchase* also of the estate near Petersburg, which abounded in *vassals*, not daring to approach the upper petticoat of their mistress, without first kissing the fringe, in a posture of genuflection, afforded a subject for astonishment to those who despised all compulsory subjection. Yet complaisance was due, and, in consequence, the tale of vanity was never interrupted. The Empress was admitted to be the *dearest friend* whom the Duchess had experienced. She was allowed even to love her, better than any favourite who might be selected, as the object of regard, by a Sovereign, less a model of self-denying virtue, than her Imperial Majesty of Russia. Not a scruple of faith was abated, in the credence given to every sentence which the Duchess advanced respect-

the Duchess, as it conferred a kind of sovereignty on her over the poor inhabitants, who are considered as absolute property, vested in the territorial proprietor.

* This estate cost the Duchess about *twenty-five thousand pounds* English money.

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ing her intimacy with the Empress. One thing is certain : At an entertainment given by the Duchefs to the Empress, *one hundred and forty* of her own domestics attended, and the whole service was of plate. The presence of so august a personage, and the manner of her reception, are unquestionable proofs of benignity on one part, ostentation on the other.

The will of his Grace of Kingston receiving every confirmation which the Courts of Justice could give *; to dissipate, rather than

* This will was executed on the *fifth* day of *July*, 1770. The following are the extracts which relate to the Duchefs: “ I do, by this my will, ratify and confirm a settlement, which I made of the annual sum, “ or yearly rent charge, of *four thousand pounds*, on “ *my wife Elizabeth Duchefs of Kingston*; and that “ the said sum shall be unto, and to the use of the “ said Elizabeth, Duchefs of Kingston, MY WIFE, “ and her assigns, for and during the term of her natural life, *in case she so long continues my widow, “ and unmarried, and no longer*. And my said wife “ shall be permitted, *during her widowhood*, to receive and take the whole yearly rents, and profits, “ of all the manors, lands, and hereditaments, before “ do-

than properly expend, the income of his estates, appeared to be the ruling principle of life. The house at Calais was not sufficient for the purpose of inviting perplexities; a mansion, at a place called *Mont*

"devised, in full satisfaction, recompense, and discharge of, and for so much of the said annual sum, or yearly rent charge of *four thousand pounds*, as shall grow due during her widowhood; but in case my said wife shall determine her widowhood during her life, then I give and devise the same to *Charles Meadows*, second son of *Philip Meadows*.

"ALSO, I give and bequeath to my said wife, *Elizabeth Duchess of Kingston*, all my furniture, pictures, plate, jewels, china, arrears of rent, and all other my effects and personal estate, of what nature or kind soever, for her own proper use absolutely, and as, and for her own goods, chattels, and effects, for evermore."

This express restriction, as to a continuance in a state of widowhood, although highly displeasing to the Duchess, was yet her absolute salvation; for, so open was she to the grossest adulation, that any foreign Knight of the Post, plying her well with flattery, might have led her a willing captive to the altar of Hymen. She endeavoured to secrete the circumstance of her inability to marry, always affecting the greatest dislike of the connubial state.

Marthe,

*Martbe**, near Paris, was pitched on, and the purchase of it negotiated in as short a time as the Duchess could desire. There were only a few obstacles to enjoyment, which were not considered until the purchase was completed. The house was in so ruinous a condition, as to be in momentary danger of falling. The land was more like the field of the slothful, than the vineyard of the industrious. All these apparent evils became realized to the optics of the Duchess, only after she had possessed her wishes, and found them, as most of her wishes were, productive of trouble. A lawsuit with the owner of the estate was the consequence of the agreement. The Duchess went again to Petersburg, and returned to France, before it finished; and it was the manner in which this suit was adjudicated, which proved the ultimate cause of her death.

* The situation of this house is extremely pleasant, being to *Paris* what *Hampstead* is to London. The Duchess was to have paid for the house about *nine thousand pounds* in the whole.

Befide

Beside this purchase in France, another was made by the Duchess, the scale of which was truly grand. The brother of the French Monarch was the owner of a domain, according, in every respect, with his dignity. This was the territory of *Saint Assise*, pleasantly distanced from Paris, abounding with game of every different species, and rich in all the possible luxuriant adornment of nature. The mansion was fit for the brother of a King. It afforded *three hundred beds*. The value of such an estate was too considerable to be expected in one payment; she, therefore, agreed to discharge the whole of the sum demanded, which was *fifty-five thousand pounds*, by instalments. It is sometimes easier to agree, than fulfil. The Duchess found this to be her case in the present instance. How was it possible to give the half of a plumb, without the value of a cherry-stone in possession? *Sixteen thousand pounds* were the utmost amount of the annual rents of the Duchess. Ready money she had none; it was a commodity in which she seldom abounded.

abounded. To make good the first instalment, recourse was had to the expedient of borrowing cash of *Messrs. Drummond*; and a few valuables were lodged as securities for the debt; by this means one payment was made good*.

If it be asked, for whom this estate, thus purchased under every inconvenience, was actually intended, the proper answer returned would be, that to the career of vanity there is not an end; and, whether that passion be gratified by the expenditure, or the hoard of money, is matter of total indifference, the fordidness of the passion continuing the same. It being, necessary, however, to assign a little portion of reason for a great degree of extravagance, the recent reconciliation which had taken place between the *Duchess* and the *nephew* of her "*dearest Duke*," afforded a plea. The

* *Twenty-five thousand pounds* have been actually paid, in part of the purchase money, for this territory. The second instalment is, at this moment, due. The annual income of *Saint Affise*, is estimated at *near three thousand pounds*.

purchase,

purchase, on the part of the Duchefs, was a good one.—There were not only game, but *rabbits* in plenty; and finding them of a superior quality and flavour, the Duchefs, during the first week of her possession, had as many killed and sold, as brought her *three hundred guineas*. Thus at Petersburg, she was a distiller of brandy*; at Paris a *rabbit-merchant*.

Thus proceeding from enterprize to enterprize, the hour approached in which the Duchefs would no longer be permitted to continue a resident of our lower world. She was at dinner when she received the intelligence of a sentence respecting the house near

* By permission of the Empress, one of the Russian estates purchased by the Duchefs was called *Cbudleigh*; and about ten miles from this place, she built an *Inn*, for the reception and accommodation of strangers. Here, a liquor, which the Russians call *watkeq*, was sold. It is made from *barley*, mixed with certain *plants*, and, when distilled, the fumes of it are of the most intoxicating kind. The project of the Duchefs was, to have made the liquor on her own estate, and to have supplied the Inn with it. The Russian names of her territory are, *Willa* and *Acoff*.

Paris,

Paris, having been awarded against her. The sudden communication of the news caused an agitation of her whole frame. She flew into a violent passion, and, in the agitation of her mind and body, she burst an internal blood-vessel; even this, however, she appeared to have surmounted, until a few days afterwards, on the morning of the 26th of August; when, about to rise from her bed, a servant who had long been with her, endeavoured at dissuasion. The Duchess addressed her thus: "I am not very well, but I *will* rise." On a remonstrance being attempted, she said, "At your peril disobey me; I will get up, and walk about the room. Ring for the Secretary to assist me." She was obeyed, dressed, and the Secretary entered the chamber. The Duchess then walked about; complained of thirst, and said, "I could drink a glass of my fine Madeira, and eat a slice of toasted bread. I shall be quite well afterwards; but let it be a large glass of wine." The attendant reluctantly brought, and the Duchess drank the wine. She

She then said, " I am perfectly recovered ;
 " I knew the Madeira would do me good.
 " My heart feels oddly. I will have another glass." The servant here observed, that such a quantity of wine, drank in the morning, might intoxicate rather than benefit. The Duchess persisted in her orders, and the second glass of Madeira being produced, she drank that also, and pronounced herself to be charmingly indeed. She then walked a little about the room, and afterwards said, " I will lay on the couch. I can sleep, and after a sleep, I shall be entirely recovered." She sat on the couch, a female having hold of each hand. In this situation, she soon appeared to have fallen into a sound sleep, until the woman found her hands colder than ordinary ; an affright ensued ; other domestics were rang for, and the Duchess was found to have expired, as the wearied labourer sinks into the arms of rest.

Thus died ELIZABETH CHUD-
 LEIGH, actually Countess of Bristol, and,
 by the curtesy of foreign nations, styled
 H DUCHESS

DUCHESS of KINGSTON. She was a woman, the leading features of whose character are more discoverable from a review of her conduct, than from any delineation in the power of the pen to give. If she might be allowed to know herself, her own description of the mutability of her nature should pass for the truth. Her words were these: " I should detest myself, if I were "*two hours in the same temper.*" What she said, she verified; for she was alternately changing from humour to humour. This instability it was which, in the early part of life, occasioned her to be surrounded more with admirers, than friends; and from the hour of her conviction, to the moment of her death, she had not one friend attached to her from a principle of cordial esteem. The Empress of Russia was much disposed to favour her; but, after the novelty of the meeting was over, there was even too much of sameness in the interviews with her Majesty, to be endured. Those to whom the Duchess shewed any thing like steadiness, were companions of her own selection,

selection, and she was ever sure to err most grossly in her choice. Her benefits, and her friendships, were bestowed on the unworthy. Of the latter assertion, the following anecdote is a proof:

In one of her peregrinations, the Duchess met with a person, habited as a pilgrim. His figure was a good one. In his eye there was penetration, and in the whole of his countenance there was marked expression. He was much inclined to cultivate an intimacy with the Duchess; but he rather chose to correspond, than converse with her. This arose from a consciousness of a brilliancy of style of which he was master; and, instantly perceiving how open to flattery the lady was, he thought it could be more delicately conveyed in an epistolary way. He carried his point—Left her Grace, when she strongly solicited him to remain with her. The correspondence commenced. The letters teemed with professions of admiration of so illustrious a character as the Duchess. She was more than woman! The wonder of the age! and de-

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serving

serving celebrity to the end of time ! This incense was the more acceptable, because offered by a total stranger. Her Grace became enamoured with the *pilgrim*, and, as there was something of mystery in his manner and garb, she was solicitous to have the whole explained. This favour, however, was denied, and the only thing which she could obtain was, an appointment to meet her at a future time. The correspondence, in the interim, continued ; and the letters were in the same adulatory vein. The appointed time arrived ; and the Duchefs, instead of a *Pilgrim*, met an *Abbé*. It then became necessary to throw the veil a little aside. The stranger gave an account of himself, and thus ran his story : That he was by birth an *Albanian Prince*. That he had travelled through Europe, under different disguises, and had only formed attachments with the most exalted personages. At Berlin, Prince Henry of Prussia had honoured him with his intimacy ; at Rome, most of the Cardinals were his familiars ; their Neapolitan Ma-
jesties

jesties particularly esteemed him ; and with the Emperor of Germany, he was most intimate ! This style was the very thing. It operated like a charm. The name of the stranger was required ; and he announced his travelling one to be " WORTA." Who *Worta* really was, the Duchess never inquired. She took it on trust that he was a very great man ; and as for his honesty, it was a quality entirely out of the question. The diamond box was exhibited to WORTA, and he admired as the Duchess directed. A ring of value was presented him ; and he being a *prince*, it was deemed very gracious in him to accept it. At last, the object in view was disclosed. WORTA having satisfied himself with the visits he made to the different Courts of the reigning Powers, proposed returning to his own country ; and could his bed be honoured with a partner like the Duchess, a scene of connubial felicity would be completed. To this language the Duchess listened with infinite pleasure ; and, had there not been an insurmountable obstacle, she actually

would have given her hand and fortune to an adventurer. This WORTA very lately committed several forgeries in Holland, and being apprehended, he dispatched himself by a dose of poison *.

As a contrast to this instance of imposture, and credulity, there was a *real* Prince,

* WORTA, whoever he might be, was entitled to praise, as a man of talents. During the contest between Great Britain and America, he wrote several little pieces, in support of what he termed "The honourable cause of *les pauvres Américains*." Beside this subject, there is a small tract by WORTA, entitled, "*L'Horoscope Politique*." In this he extols the character of Prince Henry of Prussia, whom he styles his dear and intimate friend. There is also another small production, containing a selection of Poetic Pieces, professedly translated from a Turkish author, but really written by WORTA. His language, in prose, is energetic in the extreme; in poetry, it is mellifluous, and full of tenderness. He had certainly strong feelings, and a very superior understanding. To each of his publications, there is an engraving of himself prefixed, which is encircled by stars, and rays, from a small represented sun, darting on the top of his head. He was, altogether, a most extraordinary character.

who.

who made the Duchefs an offer of his hand, and that after an attachment which had fubfifted twenty years. On a vifit to the Court of Saxony, the Duchefs firft met PRINCE RADZIVIL, an illuftrious perfonage, who had pretentions to the Crown of Poland*. This high character lived in a ftyle of dignified fplendor, which excited the admiration of thofe who knew not the amount of his immense revenues. The Duchefs, ftruck with the grandeur of his ftate, practifed every ingratiating art which might attract efteem. In this, fhe proved fo fuccefsful, as to engage the heart of the Prince in her favour. This was all fhe wanted; for, the confequences of the engagement were, magnificent prefents, and a correpondence carried on, during a fucceffion of years. When the Duchefs was about to make a fecond vifit to Peterfburgh, propofing to travel thither by land, fhe fignified, in a letter to PRINCE RADZIVIL, her intention of taking his domi-

* This illuftrious Pole is now living, and about fixty-five years of age.

nions in her route. The Prince, the force of whose affection had not been abated by time, received the determination as an announcement of his approaching happiness. The place of meeting was fixed, and, as there was something singularly romantic in the style in which the interview was conducted, a description of it, as detailed by a foreign gentleman, who was of the party, may not prove unentertaining to the reader.

BERGE, a village in a duchy belonging to PRINCE RADZIVIL, was assigned for the rendezvous. It is situated about forty miles from *Riga*. The Duchess being there arrived, was waited on by an officer in the retinue of the Prince, who was commissioned to inform her Grace, that his master proposed to dispense with the ceremonials of rank, and visit her as a friend. The next morning was the time specified for this visit taking place. In the interim, the Duchess was entreated to permit herself to be escorted to an hotel, ten miles distant, whither the Prince had dispatched his own cooks, and other attendants, to wait on her Grace.

Grace. The next morning, the *visit, without ceremony*, took place, and thus was it conducted. PRINCE RADZIVIL came with forty carriages, each drawn by six horses; and the different vehicles contained his nieces, the ladies of his principality, and other illustrious characters. In addition to these, there were six hundred horses led in train, a thousand dogs, and several boars; a guard of Hussars completed the suite. Such an assemblage, in a country surrounded by wood, gave an air of romance to the interview, which was still more heightened by the manner in which the Prince contrived to amuse his female guest. He made two feasts, and they were ordered in the following style. The Prince had caused a village to be erected, consisting of forty houses, all of wood, and fancifully decorated with leaves and branches. These houses formed a circle; in the middle of which, three spacious rooms were erected, one for the Prince, a second for his suite, and the third for the repast. Entering the village, in the way to the rooms,

all the houses were shut, and the inhabitants appeared to have retired to rest. The entertainment, at the rooms, opened with splendid fireworks, on an adjoining piece of water, and two vessels encountered each other in a mock engagement. The feast succeeded.—Every thing was served on plate, and sumptuous were the dishes. The Duchefs, who was fascinated by a reception so superb, entered with all the exhilaration of spirits into the festivity of the evening; and amused the company with the following song :

- “ DANS mon petit réduit,
 “ Je vis a mon aise,
 “ Je n’ai qu’une table, et un lit,
 “ Un verre, et une chaise.

 “ Mais je m’en fert chaque jour,
 “ Pour caresser tour à tour,
 “ Ma peinte et ma mie au guet,
 “ Ma peinte et ma mie.”

The feast being ended, PRINCE RADZIWIL conducted the Duchefs to the village, the houses of which were shut before, and

on a sudden they were converted into forty open shops, brilliantly decorated, and containing the richest commodities of different kinds. From these shops the Prince selected a variety of articles, and presented them to the Ducheſs. A magnificent topaz, rings, boxes, trinkets of all descriptions, composed the gifts*. The company then returned to the rooms, which were thrown into one, and a ball was opened by Prince Radzivil and the Ducheſs. The minuets and dances being concluded, the company quitted the ball-room, and in an instant it was in a blaze; combustible matter having been previously diſpoſed throughout every part of the building. The people of the village were ſeen dancing round the fire. This entertainment, which is unexaggerated in the deſcription, was ſuppoſed to have coſt PRINCE RADZIVIL, at a moderate computation, *five thouſand pounds.*

* The Ducheſs, through life, had been accuſtomed to receive preſents; and, a great part of her perſonal property was acquired in this manner.

His Highness ended not here. At a country seat, ten miles from *Niceiffuis*, his favourite town, he gave a second feast to the Dukes. This feast was followed by a boar hunt; for the purpose of which, his dogs had been brought. The hunt was in a wood, at night. A regiment of Hussars, with lighted torches in their hands, formed a circle; within which were huntsmen, also with torches. The boar, thus surrounded by fire, was intimidated, and, after the usual sport, he fell a victim to his pursuers. At this hunt attended a numerous party of the Polish nobility. During fourteen days, the time of the Duke's continuance with Prince Radzivil, she dined and slept in different houses belonging to the Prince. As the retinue moved from place to place, they, on every third or fourth day, met a camp, formed of the Prince's own guard. Travelling at night from *Niceiffuis*, the roads were illuminated; guards accompanied as escorts, and, on the arrival of the Duke, at the different towns belonging to the duchy of the Prince,

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the magistrates waited on her with their gratulations, and the cannon were fired. Here was transporting satisfaction! and yet, such was the oddity of the Duchefs, so unique was she in character, mind, and feeling, that, at the moment of her being complimented with a *feu de joye*, she only thus expressed her sentiments of the princely treatment: "He may fire as much as he pleases, but he shall not hit my mark!" These were her own words; the commentary on them is obvious.

Beside this extraordinary display of magnificence, the Duchefs, during her residence in Poland, had also the honour to be entertained by one of the first characters in the theatre of the world. This was COUNT OGINSKI*; of whom the late King of Prussia had so exalted an opinion, that he dispatched a letter to him, with the following superscribed orders: "This is to be forwarded to the *Ornament of Human Nature!*" Such a compliment, from a

* Count Oginski is now alive, and universally revered.

Sovereign who was not easily mistaken in characters, must have been highly flattering. But it did not exceed the merits of the Count; he was great, in every sense of the word. Beside being the munificent rewarder of talents, and the universal succourer of the distressed, his accomplishments were of the most endearing kind. At a concert which he gave the Dukes, he performed on six different instruments. His establishment for musical entertainments cost him *fifty thousand ducats a year*; about twenty-five thousand pounds of our money. He had a theatre, in which plays, in the French, German, and Polish languages, were acted. Horses he had from the remotest countries; one, which he shewed the Dukes, was brought him from Jerusalem. With Louis the XVth he had lived on terms of intimacy, residing nine years at the Court of France. He painted inimitably; and, among other articles, the Dukes saw a piece of his execution, which originated from the following incident: Louis the XVth and the Count were walking in a garden,

garden, and the French Monarch broke off a branch of an apple-tree, in high blossom, and throwing it at the Count, he said, "OGINSKI, you must paint that for me."

The Count obeyed; and the demise of the King happening before the picture was finished, it remained in the possession of the Count. At the mansion of this Nobleman, the Duchefs continued a few days; and PRINCE RADZIVIL accompanying her there, an emulation seemed to prevail who most should shew her a marked attention*. She
was,

* For the uncommon kindness shewn the Duchefs by *Prince Radziwil*, she *professed* the greatest gratitude. A patriarchal age of thankfulness would not be long enough to discharge the obligation! At Petersburg, an opportunity occurred of making a partial return for the favours received. It was as follows:

A favourite *niece* of *Prince Radziwil* married an officer in the Russian service, with whom she had fallen in love. To obtain his promotion in the army, the happy pair (for the happiness of reciprocal affection was their lot) went to Petersburg, and there the husband lost, at play, about seven thousand pounds, one thousand of which he paid; but, distressed for the remainder of the sum, the niece of *Prince Radziwil* solicited

was, however, shackled, as it were, in mind. There was sameness even in princely splendor; and sameness to her was ever disgusting. An *Aventurier*, like WORTA, could have succeeded, where a Prince like RADZIVIL failed of his point *. The one was a fixed,

licited the Duchess for a loan to the amount; which she absolutely refused, pleading distress; although she abounded in money, and was in high credit.

* In so heterogeneous a character as that of the lady who is the subject of this detail, it is difficult to discriminate the propensities, and pronounce how far they are influenced by any genuine motive, or passion. The Duchess had an apparent attachment to a Polish Bishop, the *Bishop of Wilna*. She also, when at Rome, discovered something more than friendship for the *Patriarch of Jerusalem*. The Bishop of *Wilna* first saw the Duchess at *Rome*. He is a most amiable character; but perhaps it was more the vanity of inconsistency, than any real affection, which actuated the Duchess in her apparent tenderness. To condemn the offers of *Prince Radzivil*, whom she actually might have married, and have had the loss of her fortune abundantly compensated, and to desire an union where it could not be obtained, was that species of contrariety, which distinguished this lady through life. Perhaps, she is the first Englishwoman who ever went to *Jerusalem* for a lover!

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the other an eccentric character ; and eccentricity, in every variation of form or action, accorded most forcibly with her feelings.

The actuating influence of this eccentricity it was, which too generally contaminated the benefits of the Duchefs, by misdirecting them to the most worthless objects. Thus, in the enumeration of her purse-leeches, we find that human blood-sucker, MAJOR SEMPLE, whom she liberated from Calais prison ; and it was termed, by the undiscerning, an act of generosity. But, the fact is, that the Duchefs, hearing of the confinement of the man, declared, in a moment, that she would contrive to have him released ; and the method she proposed was, to bribe the prison guards, saw the iron bars of the window of his room, and thus effect an escape. This stratagem busied the Duchefs for a week ; the creditors of SEMPLE all the time supposing that her Grace was calculating the amount of their demands, in order to discharge them. The project of an escape being defeated, the
Duchefs

Duchess found herself to be so embarrassed in the business, that she was compelled to do something to gratify the expectations which her officious interference had raised. A trifle was divided among the creditors, and Mr. SEMPLE was shipped for England, to prosecute his depredations on the honest part of the community.

Of the qualities of the Duchess of Kingston, a kind of masculine courage seemed the most predominant. She had always a brace of loaded pistols by the side of her bed; and her injunctions to her female domestics were, never to enter her chamber unless the bell rang, as, by sudden surprise she might be induced to fire at them. This she most unquestionably would have done. In her travelling carriage there were fire-arms, and once, on her route to Petersburg, she discharged a case of pistols at a party supposed to have inimical designs. This heroism, so uncommon in the female breast, was inherited by the Duchess, for, her mother, who once resided at Chelsea, walked thither each evening from London,

with

with a brace of pistols in her pocket, as the means of her defence.

It was this kind of courage, rather than real magnanimity, which supported the Duchess under a variety of sufferings. Pending her trial in the House of Peers, her ferocity of spirit broke forth whenever she withdrew from the bar; and, the moment when her conviction was announced, the idea of keeping possession of her property *by force*, occurred to her mind. Scarcely had the Chancellor concluded his information of her having been adjudged guilty by her Peers, than she turned to Mr. GLOVER, and said, “ You hear that I am “ convicted; there are *blunderbusses* and “ *pistols* at Kingston House; go there directly; turn all the servants out of doors, “ and keep possession of the house, for me, “ *by force.*” Thus a conviction, under which others would have sunk, but little affected the mind of the Lady who is the subject of this detail; her title, more than her character, engrossed her attention. Her domestics were struck with the absurdity of con-

continuing the stile after her conviction, which they had used before that event. They accordingly requested to be informed, how her Grace chose to be designated by them? Her answer was; "*Call me DUCHESS of KINGSTON, to be sure.*"

As in life, so in death, this lady was eccentric. The day before her demise she ate a brace of partridges, and some other game; she expired having scarcely swallowed two large bumpers of Madeira. Except an attack at Petersburg, when an epidemic disease prevailed, and the fever with which she was seized on her return from Rome to meet her trial, she experienced not an illness of a day. The method she took to preserve health, was that of braving every element. The severest cold neither impeded her journey, nor discomposed her feelings. Fires, in her apartments, were rather in conformity to established usage, than as necessities for herself; and, as a proof of her exemption from all medical rule, she almost totally reversed order in every thing. Late she retired to rest; early she

she arose. For a slight indication of the gout, she instantly plunged her feet in cold water; and phlebotomy, whether proper or not, was the universal recipe to which, on every indication of malady, she resorted.

Living, as did the Duchess in the early period of her life, within the Court circle, her exterior manners had a polish, and her actions, when she chose it, a grace. When the sunshine of good humour exhilarated her spirits, there was brilliancy in every thing she did; but, as she could be fascinating, the reverse was too much in her power, and too frequently in her inclination. Viewed superficially, and, by a transient acquaintance, she appeared irresistibly attractive; an intimacy dissolved the charm, and even her most partial admirers could only feel a pity, that the powers of eminently pleasing, should not be united with internal worth. This deficiency it was which rendered her promises not to be relied on. They were merely thrown out as lures, without any serious intention of ever performing them. Hence, her friends, as
she

she termed them, were changed like her garments ; and the only permanent attachments she had, were to those whom she seldom saw. It served her for an amusement, on a journey, to dictate letters to former acquaintances ; and whether they lived in Saxony, Prussia, Poland, Petersburg, Italy, or England, they were all complimented as being the exclusive engrossers of her esteem. On her trial ending, she instantly dictated two letters, the one to his Prussian Majesty, the other to the Empress of Russia. In both these epistles, the Sovereigns to whom they were addressed, were her “ *dearest friends, on whom alone she relied, under God, for consolation in her afflictions. She was overwhelmed, like poor DAVID, by troubles, but there were Princes graciously inclined also, like DAVID, to succour the oppressed !*” This was to excite pity. FREDERIC, in return, offered *Berlin* as an asylum, and intimation was given, by the Prussian Minister, “ That her property, if transmitted to the capital of his master’s dominions, would be perfectly
“ secure.”

“ secure.” Probably she thought that this would be too literally the case ; for, after receiving the intimation, and expressing her very grateful sense of the favour, she thus expressed herself to an English friend ; “ *The King of Prussia is devilishly clever, but I shall not trust him.*” For her Imperial Majesty, the Duchess affected the greatest predilection. If she really had any, sameness of sex, and other according principles, might be the cause.

Profuse as the Duchess was in promises, they naturally occasioned her to be surrounded with expectants. These she always disgusted by disappointing them, and they either became enemies, or indifferents. Those whom she actually benefited, could not cordially esteem her, there being too frequently something intermingled with the favours conferred, to render it more than suspicious that they were not the genuine emanations of a liberal mind. The brother of Sir George Shuckburgh her Grace had adopted. The naval line he chose to pursue. Becoming a Lieutenant, it fell
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to his lot, by what is termed the "*fortune of war*," to be taken a prisoner in the action with PAUL JONES. The confinement, and other circumstances, conspiring, occasioned an illness, which terminated in a dropsy. Recovering sufficiently to undertake the journey, he paid the Duchess a visit at Calais. She received him very cordially; introduced him to the French officers as a prodigy of courage; took care to have it known that he was a younger brother, without any fortune, and whose dependence was on her only. His illness was next deplored, and the means of an effectual recovery were deliberated on. The air near Calais was thought more salutary than that in the town; the Duchess, therefore, proposed it to Mr. SHUCKBURGH to have an apartment prepared for his immediate reception. He consented, and was conveyed to the house which her Grace had selected for his accommodation. The reader will judge of his feelings, when he is informed, that the carriage absolutely stopped at an HOSPITAL! and the designated apartment

was

was a small room, the walls of which were plastered. A female nurse was to have been the only attendant : and the Duchefs, who had a peculiar turn for amplification, enumerated the advantages of the situation to each of her visitants. Mr. Shuckburgh was so affected, that it became his only consideration how he might frame some plausible excuse to return to England. He effected his purpose by getting a friend to write to him, and press it as a matter of moment to his professional interest, to present himself, as soon as possible, at the Admiralty.

This mode of providing for the cure of an invalid was not more singular than the manner which the Duchefs took to promote the fortunes of her friends in health. Two instances, out of a thousand choice ones, shall suffice.

The eldest son of the President Cocove had been selected by the Duchefs to accompany her to Rome. He had borne a commission in the guards of the French Monarch. On the journey to and from Rome

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he was every thing that respectful attention could dictate. The Duchefs professed the greateft fenfibility of his kindness, called him her son, and *promised* to advance his fortune. He afterwards accompanied her Grace to Petersburg, and, at the expiration of seven years attendance, the Duchefs one morning thus addressed him :
 “ COCOVE; my fortune I only prize as it
 “ gives me the opportunity of *making others*
 “ *happy*. I love you as a son, and I will
 “ put *twenty thousand pounds* in your
 “ pocket! That, I think, should content
 “ you.”—Mr. COCOVE replied, “ It most
 “ assuredly would ;” and he only wished to know the means of acquiring such a sum. The Duchefs explained herself thus : “ I
 “ will write to *Vergennes*, my friend, and
 “ get him to obtain for you a considerable
 “ grant of land between *Calais* and *Dunkirk*.
 “ It is a soil fit for the growth of *Scotch*
 “ *firs*. I will be at the expence of planting,
 “ and, in about *thirty* or *forty years*,
 “ the plantation will produce a fortune.”
 Here was generosity with a vengeance!

Hope

Hope was first artfully raised by the hand of flattery, then unfeelingly depressed by that of disappointment.-

The sister of the gentleman thus treated is the second instance intended to be adduced. She was married, and had a numerous offspring. The Duchess, requested this lady to be of *her party* to Petersburg, which was considered by her Grace merely as an excursion from London to Hampton Court. The husband hesitated, for he loved his children; the wife required a little time to consider, for she dreaded the inclemency of the northern elements. At last feelings yielded to promises, and the invitation was accepted. The Duchess, and her female friend, as she then termed her, set out for Petersburg. Arriving there, the ductility of disposition and engaging manners, before assumed, were all laid aside, and nature appeared in her genuine colours. Under a pretence of guarding the honour of the lady, the Duchess, as the conversator of her connubial chastity, had her locked

up for forty-one days, and would have prolonged her incarceration, had she not contrived the means of escaping to the French Ambassador, from whom she obtained money to defray the expence of her return to her native country. This lady only accompanied the Duchefs on the faith of her promises to make her and her family *happy* during the remainder of their lives. It was thus with almost every person to whom she stood engaged by any solemn pledge of her honour. Is it surprizing that she should have lived and died without friends to solace and lament her ?

Some of the habits of the Duchefs have been before alluded to. They were all, when a purpose was not to be answered, under the dictation of the moment of feeling. That which would have startled others, gratified, rather than incommoded, her Grace. What appetite required she indulged, and vain were contrary remonstrances. In the little of disease which she experienced, the recommendation of physicians was disregarded. Sir Clifton Win-

tringham

tringham once strongly requested the Duchess to live a little more abstemiously. It was in the afternoon, and she patiently endured him. The evening passed with a symptomatic fever, and, at three o'clock in the morning after his advice, she called him a fool, said, "The stomach was made to be filled," and ordered a *capon* to be roasted for her supper. Previous to her trial she swallowed strong emetics, for the purpose of realizing an illness which she had assumed; when the purpose was answered, she ate heartily, and laughed at the deception.

External delicacy is supposed to be peculiarly annexed, as an habit, to a certain rank in life. The Duchess was indisputably entitled to elevated rank; but, many of her habits were such as would cause the vulgar to blush, from their not having been initiated in the mysteries of fashionable breeding. If at table, and with company, the Duchess happened accidentally to swallow a tainted oyster, with the utmost coolness she called for a receiver, threw it off her

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stomach,

stomach, and piously thanked her Maker for being so much better.

Her idea, like that of DOCTOR LAST, was to get rid of an enemy by every possible evacuation. Even time, place, or convenience, were not considered, if the enemy were pressing. An instance of this occurred at Petersburg; which gave rise to lampoons in every house in that capital. The Duchess stopped, one morning at the shop of a cabinet-maker, to look, as was her custom, at the various articles he had for sale. In a particular apartment there was a piece of furniture, commodious for the purpose her Grace wanted; she sent the master of the shop on a frivolous commission, and paid her devoirs as nature directed: on his return, all things were, as he left them, in a covered state, and the Duchess retired with a promise to honor him with her favors at a future time. It was the season of summer, when exhalations are powerful, and the cabinet-maker had the sense of smelling in perfection. He traced the effect to the proper cause, and he waited

waited on the Duchess to inform her; that she had so damaged the piece of furniture as to induce him to hope she would purchase it. This she refused, and the refusal induced him, out of revenge, to discover the circumstance. It circulated through Petersburg, and reached the ears of the Empress, who laughed most heartily at the transaction; of which the Duchess being apprised, she sent for the cabinet-maker, and paid him the price which he demanded for the utensil.

Habits, manners, and principles, compose the sum of life, and render the subject of them estimable or obnoxious. In what point of view the Duchess of Kingston was lately beheld, and is now considered, may be known by her living almost friendless, and dying unregretted. The rights of sepulture are withheld her; for she, at this moment lieth an outcast, suspended between Earth and Heaven. Not a relative anxious for her honourable interment; not an executor disinterested enough to have her remains oblivioned by the dust; not a tear

shed on account of her departure; not an heart affected by her loss. The few enquiries made, are directed solely to the nature of her will; and the struggle is, not about the respect to her memory, but the division of her property. That it was immense, notwithstanding artful reports to the contrary, the bequests, in the form of testamental papers, will evince. Those testamental papers, with some elucidatory notes, are here subjoined. The reader, in perusing them, if a female, should not be dazzled by an inventory of splendid property; she should rather be taught to disdain possessions, improperly acquired, when she perceives a character, like the DUCHESS OF KINGSTON, through life abounding, yet poor amidst abundance; and, although constantly in the pursuit of happiness, to the last destitute of that internal peace, which virtue and religion only can impart.

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*Printed literally and verbally from the
Original..*

TRANSLATED from the French..

1st Piece TESTAMENT of her Grace
(her. Highness) the Duchess of
Kingston made the 7th day of Oc-
tober, 1786.

Within the cover is written:

*Land called the or the**

2d Piece THIS is the last will and tes-
tament of me the most noble Eli-
zabeth Duchess of Kingston in
England Countess of Warth in the
Electorate of Bavaria and Duchess
of Kingston in Russia daughter of
the late Colonel Thomas Chudleigh:

* What is meant by this prefatory sentence, is im-
possible to conjecture. Nor can it be otherwise re-
conciled, than by remarking, that as the whole of the
will is a jumble of inconsistencies, the introduction is
of a piece with the rest.

of Hall in the parish of Harford
in the county of Devon and of his
wife Harriet daughter of
Chudleigh Esq. of Chalmington
in the county of Dorset: which I
make in manner following

Viz:

I give leave and bequeath all that house
and land situate at Knightsbridge in the
parish of Saint Margaret Westminster
called Kingston House together with
the Gardens and all the Fields purchased
of Mr. Swinhoe with all the appurte-
A*nances unto
his heirs and assigns for the perpetual use
of the said A his heirs
and assigns and all that piece of land and
field called Dairy Fields which is held on
a long lease of Mr. Swinhoe whereof there

* This bequest to Mr. "A," is a very handsome one, and it is a pity that *alphabetical* gentleman, as well as his near relation, Mr. "B," should have so essentially ill treated the Duchefs, as to induce her, as she afterwards doth, to transfer her bounty to persons more deserving.

are

are already thirty years expired unto the said A his executors administrators and assigns for all the remainder of the term yet to come and unexpired and all other lands and tenements situate near the said house and the estate thereunto belonging and not otherwise disposed of by this present act unto the said A

his administrators and assigns he and they paying out of the revenue thereof to Margaret Cramont daughter of Captain Cramont formerly one of Aide de Camp of General Oglethorpe an annual rent of one hundred pounds during her life with which I hereby charge the said house land and estate and I give her the same power of entry and seisin in case of non-payment for six months as is customary with respect to common rent charges bequeathed on real estates; the first six months payment to be made on the first quarter day on which rents are usually paid which shall happen immediately after my decease.

I give leave and bequeath that two fields

or pieces of land situate between the land
called the Duke of Rutland's land and the
B garden belonging to Kingston House
unto his heirs and assigns.
for the perpetual use of the said B
his heirs and assigns

I give leave and bequeath all the field
or piece of land one part whereof is a
kitchen garden situate between Kingston
House and a house or farm and land now
L used as a boarding-school unto
his heirs and assigns for the perpetual use
of the said L his heirs and
assigns And I give and bequeath all the
furniture pictures china household linen
fire-arms kitchen and garden copper uten-
sils and other things belonging to the said
house kitchen garden stables coach-
houses and other buildings unto the said
A his executors administrators
and assigns unto whom I have given the
said house.

I give leave and bequeath all that ca-
pital house hen-houses farm and domain
ground and other lands meadows and
4 pasture

pasture grounds called Hall situate in the parish of Harford in the county of Devon and all those houses lands and farms with their appurtenances called Luks Landford Barn and Dards Tenements in the said parish of Harford, containing one hundred and twenty acres of land or thereabouts with their appurtenances and dependencies and the ruined cottage and meadow called Odacombe Meadow containing one acres of land and two other cottages houses places and gardens with their dependencies formerly in the possession of John Worth or his tenant, one other cottage garden and inclosure in the possession of Thomas Pierce and likewise one moiety of the Lordship of Harford and a moiety of the right of patronage of the parish church of Harford and of the Marsh called Harford Marsh and all the other Estates now in my possession in the county of Devon with all the appurtenances and appendages (subject to an annual payment of fifty pounds from me to Mrs. Mason during her life who has

has lived in my house called Hall in different circumstances and has received the said rent-charge for several years and which is still paid to her and for which I charge my estates in the county of Devon and give to her the same power to be paid in the same manner as I have directed for the rent-charge herein above given to Margaret Cramond) unto Sir George Shuckburgh Baronet Sir Richard Heron and George Payne of Brooklands in the county of Surry Esq. their heirs and assigns with power
C to transfer the same to the use of

during his life and after his decease to the use of the first second and other sons successively of the said in the male line and in default of male heirs of the said **C** or in case of there being any they should happen to die before the age of twenty one years then to the use of

P during his life and after his decease to the use of the first second or any other son of the said **P** successively in the male line and in default of male issue of the said **P** or in case

there:

there should be any and that they should happen to die before the age of twenty-one years then to the use of the Revd. John Penrose Clerk of Fieldborough in the county of Nottingham during his life and after his decease for the use of the first second and every other male child of the said John Penrose successively and in default of male issue of the said John Penrose or in case there should be any and that they should happen to die before the age of twenty-one years then to the use of the Revd. John Donisthorpe of Corkney in the said county of Nottingham his heirs and assigns and I do hereby order that all and every person or persons unto whom I have bequeathed my said estates in the county of Devon* shall be obliged to take the surname and arms of Chudleigh as soon as they shall have taken possession thereof and in default of conforming themselves thereto, the

* These said estates in the county of Devon amount, in the annual income, to about *one hundred pounds a year.*
 person

person remaining nearest shall be at liberty to take possession of the said estate and to enjoy the same as if the person refusing was dead I do also order that trustees be appointed in such place as shall be thought necessary to preserve the contingent remainder, with power to the person in possession or the guardians of the children who shall have a right to the estate when they shall have attained the age of twenty one years to lease the same And I hereby give and bequeath all the furniture plate pictures china looking glasses linen, fire arms, carriages waggons household utensils garden tools horses horned cattle annuity and all other things belonging to the houses park land gardens baths and appurtenances at Thoresby Holm Pierpoint and all the other houses lately belonging to his Grace the Duke of Kingston deceased in the county of Nottingham or any other part of England (the county of Middlesex only excepted) unto the said Sir George Shuckburgh
 Sir

Sir Richard Heron and George Paine their executors administrators and assigns on condition of having them valued and estimated by two indifferent persons of the greatest skill and experience according to their different sorts and qualities and to offer them first to Charles Meadows of Esq. if he will make a purchase thereof at the price of the valuation and pay the amount thereof in five equal annual portions but if he refuses to accept of it, it shall then be publicly sold by the said trustees, their executors administrators and assigns, and the monies arising therefrom shall be received and retained by them; and if the furniture and other things produce the sum of fifteen thousand pounds or more this sum of fifteen thousand pounds shall be paid to Evelin Philip Meadows, Esquire* of Chaillot near Paris and the surplus.

* These are the chattels bequeathed her by his Grace of Kingston, which, as her personal property, will of course, occasion a contest on the part of the next of kin.

surplus be advanced by the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors administrators and assigns on Government security the interest to be paid to the said Evelyn Philip Meadows during his life and after his decease the principal shall be divided equally among his children with benefit of survivorship until twenty one years and the provision for their maintenance shall be taken in the usual manner out of the interests of the said securities but if the said Evelyn Philip Meadows should not leave any children it shall be paid and applied to the benefit of the children of the said Charles Meadows, his eldest son excepted, equally with benefit of survivorship and the usual administration for the main-

The pretensions of *Evelyn Meadows* to this bequest, are, to such a character as the Ducheſs, the best founded, imaginable. He *disgraced* her by a prosecution, which finally exiled her. Like *Charles the Second*, she provided for *enemies*, leaving her friends to console themselves with the love of her good qualities.

tenance

tenance of them as ordered with respect to the children of the said Evelyn Philip Meadows. But if the whole does not produce fifteen thousand pounds then the total shall be paid to the said Evelyn Philip Meadows and if it should so happen that the said Evelyn Philip Meadows should die before me, then the said produce shall be paid unto and divided amongst his children if more than one with the usual provision for their maintenance as herein before mentioned and if he leaves only one child the said produce shall be given to such child and if he should die without heirs it shall then be paid to the children of the said Charles Meadows, his eldest son excepted, in the same manner as to those of the said Evelyn Philip Meadows. And I also give and bequeath unto said Charles Meadows all the *communion plate* which belonged to the chapel of Thoresby and which were taken away with the other vessels and sent *by mistake* to St.

St. Petersburg in Russia*, and my gold desert plate with the case of knives forks and spoons of gold and four golden salt cellars all engraved with the arms of Kingston and also one large salt cellar called Queen Elizabeth's salt cellar together with all my other gold and gilt plate whatsoever, either for use or ornament and likewise the following plate viz. one large cistern with ornaments weighing 3606 ounces two large silver vessels to put wine in with their pedestals and appurtenances one large cover one middle piece weighing 632 oz. 5dwts. two large tureens with covers weighing 1342 oz. 5dwts. and their

* To strip a chapel of the Communion plate, and pretend that the sacramental vessels could be sent from Nottinghamshire to Russia BY MISTAKE, is adding a lie to sacrilege. If it were possible that the Communion plate were sent to Petersburg, by mistake, how came it not to be returned when the mistake was discovered? It is shocking to consider to what length the *lust of avarice* can impel the human mind. A chapel may be robbed, and the impiety of the deed may be termed a *mistake*.

dishes;

dishes ; two tureens with handles weighing 592 oz. 10 dt.—Two corner tureens weighing together 650 oz. 17 dt. two soup dishes weighing 171 oz. 19 dt. four ice pails weighing together 252 oz. 13 dt. two large cups weighing together 266 oz. 5 dt. two cups weighing 158 oz. 10 dt. six cups weighing together 278 oz. 8 dt. six cups weighing together 188 oz. 8 dt. two cups weighing 44 oz. 14 dt. two cups weighing 71 oz. 16 dt. four cups weighing 70 oz. 16 dt. eight cups plain round weighing 234 oz. 6 dt. eight deep round cups weighing 184 oz. four corner cups weighing 76 oz. 4 dt. six sauce boats weighing 128 oz. 19 dt. five dozen of plain plates weighing 1441 oz. 14 dt. and six dozen of wrought plates weighing 1437 oz. 13 dt.*—And I also

* This specification of valuable articles is astonishing ; and still more astonishing is the current language of *one*, at least, of the Executors, that the Duchess died impoverished. How far a mixture of *self-interest* may cause such reports to be propagated, is matter of consideration for the relatives.

give

give him my nine dozen of Moco handle knives and forks mounted in gold which I bought at Rome and likewise the whole length portrates of the late Duke of Kingston and of the present Ducheſs of Kingston to be put up at Thoreſby which as well as all the plates ſhall be reputed as an heir loom of the ſaid houſe ; and I alſo give him the ſeveral pieces of cannon and the ſhips and veſſel on Thoreſby Lake all the copper fountains locks bolts bars bells—and all other furniture in and about the houſes gardens ſtables and houſes thereunto belonging to be reputed as appendages of the ſaid houſe and I give and bequeath to Mrs. Meadows wife of the ſaid Charles Meadows all my gold filagree work plate toilette furniture together with all the ancient enamelled ornaments thereto belonging and all the cabinets and other pieces of japan ware all the gold and gilt plate and japan ware, are now at St. Petersburg, alſo my pearl necklace conſiſting of

of

of pearls with two drop pearls in the shape of pears strung at the two ends of the necklace and which belonged heretofore to the family of Kingston And I order that all the plate and the pearl necklace hereabove mentioned and given to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meadows as aforesaid shall be carried and placed at Thoresby and that they shall enjoy the same for ever together with the house as an heir loom.

I give leave and bequeath my house situate at Montmartre or in any other place at or near Paris in the kingdom of France with the gardens and appurtenances unto Messrs. Girardot and Haller bankers at Paris on condition of their selling the same and paying out of the money arising therefrom to the Abbe Fillatrée now at the Prince Cardinal of Rohan's one thousand Louis-d'ors unto the said Mr. Haller six hundred Louis-d'ors to purchase a pair of diamond shoe buckles to Madam de Gros at Paris one thousand Louis-d'ors

to

to Mr. l'Ekoufe of Paris five hundred Louis-d'ors to Mr. Becket de Moyceque of Calais second fon of the late Prefident Cocove * one thousand Louis d'ors and to pay to my trustees five hundred Louis-d'ors to be placed out at interest and pay the income to Madamoifelle Cafferiere a young lady of Calais — Sister of the late Mr. Cafferiere of the Custom-house during her life and after her decease to pay the principal to the faid Mr. Becket de Moyceque of Calais to purchase an annual rent of one hundred Louis d'ors for ever for the benefit of the two fchools at Calais for the education of all the children which fhall be brought there for instruction according to the rules of thofe fchools newly eftablifhed and the rent to be paid one half each to each of the faid fchools, the receipts of the fix brothers of the boys fchool and of the fix fifters of the girls

* The eldeft fon, who travelled with the Duchefs to Rome, Petersburgh, and other places, is commended by her good wifhes, to the care of Heaven.

school

school shall be a sufficient discharge and to employ * a sufficient sum for building a prison for the prisoners of war and those for debt in order to keep them separate from the criminals; and if there should remain any money over and above these disposals they shall employ a sufficient quantity for the building of a water mill in a † convenient place in the town of Calais for the use and benefit of the public (as at certain times when the wind fails the poor are liable to be without bread) which shall grind gratis for the poor on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays under the inspection and direction of the mayor of the

* This idea of erecting a separate prison for the debtors, was suggested to the Duchess by *Major Semple*, who stated it to have been his principal sufferance, to have had *his feelings wounded*, by being liable to mix with *rogues*.

† This jocular mode of converting the *Mayor of Calais* into a Miller, is altogether so suitable to the genius of the *Testator*, as not, perhaps, to occur to the mind of any other person in the universe. There is an air of *lunacy* pervades the whole of the will.

K

town,

town, and lastly the remainder to be employed by Mr. Haller in brilliants for Mademoiselle Hougherot, none of the diamonds to be under the weight of one carat. I will that all the plate and other effects (the pictures excepted) which are in the house at Paris be sold by my executors the money arising therefrom to be placed out in government or other good securities and the interest thereof to be paid to Mrs. Donisthorne wife of the aforementioned Reverend John Donisthorne during her life and after her death the capital to be divided among her children in such manner and at such times as she shall direct by deed or testament in default of which disposal on her part it shall be divided among them in equal portions to be paid to them when they shall have respectively attained the twenty first year of their age with the usual power for their maintenance and benefit of survivorship if any of them die before attaining the age of twenty one years but if she leaves no

3

issue

issue then to such persons and in such manner as she shall direct in the said deeds or testament And I give leave and bequeath my hotel and the garden adjacent together with the stables dependencies and appurtenances situate at Calais in the said kingdom of France to the government of the said kingdom to be employed to make the resident of the commandant of the said town of Calais for the time being to be delivered after the furniture and fixtures shall be taken out together with the wines and liquors which are in the cellar* which are to be left for the use of the first commandant who shall reside there —I give and bequeath the pictures in the gallery of the said hotel painted by

* This cellar is in excellent condition as to what it contains, for there are about *forty thousand bottles of* different sorts of wine in it. The present commandant, having passed his grand climacteric, is not qualified to enjoy the pleasures of the cellar, but, should it fall to the lot of a *bon vivant*, it would prove a most acceptable bequest.

Mignard to the Lord Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of London begging their acceptance thereof and that they would place them in the Egyptian hall of the Mansion house which the Lord Mayor of the said City for the time being inhabits*. I give and bequeath the remainder of the pictures and the furniture of the said hotel (the plate and household linen excepted) unto the said Sir George Shuckburg Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors administrators and assigns to be sold by auction at the beginning of the month of May in the year next after my decease, and to regulate the accounts of Mr. Speake my maitre d'hotel in that town under

* There are *sixteen* of these pictures, and very valuable they are; but whether they may ever come into the possession of the Corporation of London, is, at present, a little problematical. The relations of the Dukes may think it quite as well to convert them into cash, as to have them ornament the Hall to which the Dukes, in a moment of folly, consigned them.

the inspection of Mr. John Williams my maitre d'hotel at the hotel of Kingston and pay him the balance if any be due to him also to pay to each of my English domestics who shall be in my service at the hour of my decease the sum of twenty pounds each to pay the expences of their passage and journey And I order hereby that the rest of the monies arising from the said sale shall be equally divided by the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors administrators and assigns among the children of the sisters of the late Sir John Chudleigh with the usual powers for their maintenance and benefit of survivorship in case any of them should die before having received the legacies And I hereby order that the plate the silver urn excepted which shall be in my said hotel at the day of my decease shall be sent to my house at Knightsbridge called Kingston House for the use and behoof of the said A—— his executors ad-

ministrators and assigns unto whom I have left the said house And I give and bequeath all the household linen to Mademoiselle Charles Meadows. I give and bequeath to Mr. Fry Dr. of Medicine at Rome who attended me during my abode in that City all my household linen the furniture pictures plate linen china and all the other goods and effects whatsoever belonging to me in the possession and custody of the Abbess of the Convent of* of the said Doctor Fry and of Mr. Orlanderd Treasurer of the Jesuits her paying two hundred ducats to the said Mr. Orlanderd, or if he should be dead at the day of my decease to his widow if she is alive and I order that a catalogue be made of the printed music and books in the hands of the said persons at Rome and that the said printed music and the books together with a copy of the said catalogue shall

* The property in the custody of this nameless *Abbess*, added to the other possessions at *Rome*, are estimated at *two thousand pounds* value.

be delivered to the Russian Minister then at this place for the use of General Fossoskie at St. Petersburg if living, but if he is dead for the use of his son —I give leave and bequeath my land called Chudleigh in the district of Motlic in the Russian empire, together with the house in which I reside and all other houses and buildings thereto belonging and all the forests mines quarries dependencies and appurtenances and all the furniture plate household linen china looking glasses and other things in and about the said house stables gardens and outhouses with the horses peasants, annual and perpetual rents and other things belonging to the said land unto his heirs and assigns for ever for which he shall pay within twelve months after my decease the sum of thirty thousand roubles to Mr. Muers my apothecary living there in one of my houses, and one tenth of the produce of all the mines whatsoever to such person or persons in favor of whom it shall please her Im-

perial Majesty graciously to dispose of the same to be by them had and received for their own proper use and I order that my four musical slaves* and their wives bought of Mr. Douglas at Revel shall have their liberty six years after my decease and that there shall be paid to each of them thirty six roubles per annum to be paid out of the said land for the services they are to render to the person or persons to whom my land is bequethed and unto their wives the sum of eighteen roubles per annum each.

I give leave and bequeath in like manner the piece of land at Schusselbourg a gracious gift made to me by her Imperial Majesty the Empress of all the Russias situate on the banks of the

* Even in this manumission there is discovered a latent principle of tyranny; for the slaves are to be liberated for *six years*, and be afterwards in bondage during the remainder of their lives. As was said of *Herod*, that "it were better to be his *hogs*, than his *children*," so would the condition of a *coal-beaver* have been preferable to that of her *Grace of Kingston's* "Musical Performers."

Neva

Neva and adjoining to the land of
F Prince Potemkin unto

and his heirs for ever And I give leave
and bequeath all the land purchased of
General Ismoiloff in the year 1785
called Casterbaback on the road of
Czarſco Zello with the houſes gardens

G and dependencies unto

and his heirs for ever. And I give
leave and bequeath my large houſe and
other houſes gardens and land at St.
Petersburg bought of the ſaid General

H Ismoiloff, unto and

his heirs for ever I give to the Coun-
teſs of Gramont my large black ena-
melled ring ſet round with brilliants and
having a large oval brilliant in the mid-
dle and I give to the Counteſs de Boſſe
my cornucopia ſet with brilliants one
pair of ear-rings of emeralds round pear
faſhion, my large emerald ring ſet
round with brilliants and an emerald
croſs and ribbon attached to it ſet round
with brilliants and likewise all my eme-
ralds. I give and bequeath my two

fine music lustres at the house at St. Petersburg where I reside my fine organ mounted with engraved glass and precious stones set in gold and fillagree work with two tables of Oriental alabaster to the Prince of as a small testimony of my remembrance and of his attention to me And I give and bequeath all my organs (except the above mentioned) and all my forte pianos and musical instruments of every kind all my music and the books of my library at St. Petersburg together with all my globes telescopes and all other optical instruments and all my clothes in the said house trimmed or lined with fur and all other furs made up or not made up in all the houses whatsoever I which I have in Russia unto

And I give and bequeath all my china and looking-glasses whatsoever belonging to the said houses at St. Petersburg either ornamental or useful (the mirrors belonging to the houses excepted) and all the household
linen

linen that shall be found therein to the said Charles Meadows and I give all the carpets of the said house the coach-horses the kitchen and furniture in and about the said house at St. Petersburg unto my executors as making part of my own proper estate I give and bequeath likewise all the remainder of the furniture that shall be found in the said house at St. Petersburg unto the said

K unto whom I have given the said house I give and bequeath as an act of justice to the said Charles Meadows to be reputed an heir-loom of Thoresby the two pictures which are in the possession of the Count de *

 through the misunderstood interpretation of a letter which he received and which he maintains to have been presented to him viz. one of the said pictures known and attested by Carlo Marriot for an original of Raphael the Holy Family and the other a Claude

* The Nobleman here alluded to is Count *Gher-nichoff*.

Lorrain It is said in the said letter that these two pictures were much esteemed and admired by the late Duke of Kingston I set a great value on them and I trusted them to his care, the expression in French was "*Je vous le confie*" (I trust them to you) this circumstance can be attested by Major Moreau at that time my secretary who wrote that letter signed by me, they have been demanded and refused several times and particularly once by my painter Mr. Le Sure who presented the request in writing signed by me

I give and bequeath to the model of a sleeping figure the original whereof is now at Rome which was or is thought to have been seen at the said Compté de having been brought from Thoresby in Nottinghamshire by Moiett my gardener, who shipped it on board a ship which brought him and the figure to St. Petersburg where he himself delivered it and where he saw it often and for a long time

time in the court yard of the said Count before the house and during many months in the said Count's garden in a case without a cover, I have kept his attestation thereof copy whereof I annexed to this present act I order my executors and trustees to offer all the pictures of my house at St. Petersburg to her Imperial Majesty if she will accept of them, and pay for them unto my said executors the sum of one hundred thousand roubles * and if her Majesty does not accept of them my executors shall be bound to offer them to the King of Spain and in case he should not accept of them they shall then cause them to be sent to England to be publicly sold there.

I direct and request the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne to offer and lay at the feet of her Imperial Majesty my pair of pearl ear-rings with my aigrette

* About twenty-five thousand pounds sterling.

containing

containing five red pearls and one large red pearl suspended from an Imperial crown of brilliants only worthy to be offered as the rarest jewel in the known world and the acknowledgment of a heart full of gratitude for the particular friendship with which her Imperial Majesty has always distinguished me

I give and bequeath to his Holiness the Pope a miniature picture representing the Holy Family by Raphael in a gold snuff-box incrustated with pebbles found in Saxony as an acknowledgment of his gracious protection and of the honour and favour he was pleased to shew me by preserving a very considerable property consisting of plate jewels and other things of value which were under his Holiness's care during three years that my persecution lasted which were well preserved and restored to me undamaged and without expences

I give and bequeath unto the British Museum in Montague House Great Russel-street Bloomsbury London my
two

two large pearls set round with brilliants which are supposed to weigh 47 grains more than those pledged by the Dutch in England in the reign of the House of Stuart which were estimated too high to be purchased and also the snuff-box which appears to be chrystal and which is only Scotch pebble set round with diamonds and served as a case to a watch of Mary Queen of Scotland and was given by her to a friend on the scaffold in her last moments that it may remain among the curiosities in England.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable the Countess of Salisbury my pair of ear rings of white pearls in the form of pears set with brilliants which anciently belonged to the Countess of Salisbury in the time of the reign of Edward who instituted the Order of the Garter and purchased by me of Mr. Matthew Lamb trustee of one of the House of Salisbury.

I give

I give and bequeath my large diamond ring consisting of one stone weighing twenty-seven grains to the Earl of Hillsborough Baron in England as a small testimony of my acknowledgment for the constant friendship which he shewed me during the time of my troubles and persecutions.

I give and bequeath my large diamond button which I wore in my hat and a diamond loop to be purchased by my executors and worn therewith the diamonds to be of one carat each of the first quality English cut for his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

I give and bequeath the fellow button to his Grace the Duke of Portland with a similar hoop to be purchased.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Barrington one thousand pounds for a solitaire ring.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable Admiral Barrington my frigate with all her sails apparel anchors and other things thereto belonging to be

be delivered to him after making her voyage from Russia to transport to England such necessary equipage and other things as my executors shall want to transport there and in case the frigate shall be by them demanded for that purpose ; but this voyage shall be made within fifteen months after my decease.

I give and bequeath to the Honourable Mr. Daines Barrington of the Inner Temple London my antique cameo ring with the head of Cicero and every thing that may be found in my cabinet of natural history, and sundry loose parcels found in the rivers in different parts of the world and which are in a crystal box to appearance but is a Scotch pebble set with diamonds..

I give and bequeath to the Right Revd. Shute Barrington Bishop of Salisbury *

* As the blanks in this *hocus focus* medley, which Mr. Payne, one of the executors, has the kindness to call a *will*, is not filled up, the Bishop of Salisbury must be content with the good wishes of his departed friend.

I give

I give and bequeath to the said Sir George Shuckburgh Baronet my diamond shoe buckles.

I give and bequeath to Sir Richard Heron to be held and reputed as an heir-loom to him and his family my large pair of diamond ear-rings brilliants consisting of a single stone each.

I give and bequeath to my cousin Mr. Harry Oxendon who married Miss Peggy Chudleigh the youngest daughter of my uncle Sir George Chudleigh Bart. of the county of Devon to be held and reputed as heir-looms my set of brilliants and topazes consisting of a necklace one pair of ear-rings one ring one pair of shoe buckles in yellow topazes all set round with brilliants which (the shoe buckles excepted) were given to me as a present by the Electress Dowager of Saxony and a large pearl in form of a pea set round with brilliants and also a pair of shapes embroidered in brilliants for women's shoes and eight rare diamonds which served

as trimming for a robe with the four foliages of brilliants dependent thereto to make a pair of buckles and I give him the sum of three hundred and twenty pounds to purchase thirty-two brilliants to make the large side of the buckles.

I give and bequeath to Mr. Chichester son of my cousin Mr. John Chichester and of Mary Chudleigh his wife and one of the daughters of Sir George Chudleigh to become and be reputed as heir-looms the twenty-three diamonds *

I give and bequeath to my cousin Mr. Prideaux who married Miss Mary Chudleigh daughter of Sir George Chudleigh my large diamond breast knot which I usually wore in my hat

* Among the number of diamonds which the Duchess bequeathed, it will be rather difficult for the executors to ascertain which were the *twenty-three* she intended for *Mr. Chichester*. Left to the choice of others, they may not be of the *first water*.

which

which I desire may become and be reputed as an heir-loom. I hereby order my executors to lay out two thousand pounds in the purchase of an annuity for Elizabeth Chudleigh sister of the late Sir John Chudleigh to be paid to her and I give her a legacy of three hundred pounds.

I also give and bequeath to Miss Diana Chudleigh one hundred pounds for a ring.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Strong my cousin who lives near Wrexham in the county of Wales the sum of five hundred pounds and all my rubies set with brilliants eight brilliant robe buttons my pearl necklace composed of six rows my sapphires and yellow brilliants consisting of one pair of ear-rings two sapphires for buttons two small flowers in form of daisies a butterfly a sapphire ring set with brilliants and a sapphire pear set with brilliants to hang at the neck a solitaire ring yellow diamond a hoop ring all which diamonds and precious stones

stones I desire may be looked upon and reputed as heir-looms.

I give and bequeath to my Cousin Miss Elizabeth Chudleigh third daughter of George Chudleigh of the County of Devon the brilliant loops which I usually wore to the sleeves of my gown and a knot of brilliants with which I generally tie my morning gown and my large brilliant ring during their life and after their death I give them to some one of their sisters children to dispose of them.

I give and bequeath to my relation Mrs. Standard formerly Miss Mason the sum of five hundred pounds and also a large silver table engraved with the arms of Chudleigh a large silver coffee pot and a silver tea service in the form of an urn which is at Calais as heir looms.

I give and bequeath to Mr. Jeffery Chalut de Verin Farmer General in France all my pictures which shall be found in or about Paris and the sum of
one

one thousand Louis d'ors to purchase a ring in my remembrance.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Payne wife of the aforementioned George Payne my gold watch and chain set with small brilliants and my large usual ring which she will please to wear for my sake and to be given after my decease to the eldest daughter if she pleases.

I give and bequeath to the virtuous and honorable Mr. Komonki of St. Petersburg at the Chancery of Prince Potemkin in consideration of his respectful attachment and of the care he took of me during my voyage from St. Petersburg to France when he was sent with me by her most gracious Imperial Majesty the sum of fifty thousand roubles which legacy I order to be paid to him the year after my decease.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Ann Hamilton a rent of two hundred pounds per annum during her life to be paid out of my personal estate,

I give

I give and bequeath to my old and faithful servant John Williams the sum of four thousand pounds * and to his wife who has been with me a great number of years the sum of five hun-

* To John Williams, the Duchefs has intentionally shewn a grateful esteem for faithful though not the most honourable servitude. She files him her old and faithful servant: he originally was one of her chairmen, when Miss Chudleigh; and, possessed of a head and heart equal to the schemes of his intriguing mistress, in a few years wriggled himself into the offices of butler and house-steward.—These situations gave him some power in her household; being possessed of strong natural abilities, and without education, he was pretty well steeled against all virtuous principles, when in opposition to his Mistress's ambition; in truth, she was well seconded by such an agent in most of her plans, however base and dishonourable; nor could any person of ability or merit in her household retain her favor longer than it met with his pleasure or humour.—Pretending to methodistical principles, they served as a cloak for the meanest deceptions—Domestics of the revered and good old Duke, who had spent their best days in his service, soon experienced the consequence of his power; and he had the honour to discharge every one who was not sufficiently mean to be subservient to his views.

dred

dred pounds and to their son and daughter the sum of three thousand pounds each and I desire the said Sir John Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the sum of one hundred thousand livres in the purchase of an annuity on the heads of Speake and his wife * now my domestics in my house at Calais and on the head of the survivors to be paid to the said Speake and his wife during their lives by moieties the moiety payable to the wife shall be for her separate use and her receipt shall be a sufficient discharge

* The purchasing an annuity on the heads of Speake and his wife, without Christian names, is rather humorous—The husband happens to be of a lower degree than her ordinary carpenter, alluded to in page 134; true it is, he wears a head without genius or common sense—the head of his immaculate spouse, Sarah, poor woman, has often felt the weight of her Mistress's fifts; a most docile creature, sometimes in the character of house-keeper, cook, laundry maid or kitchen-maid, as it suited the humour of her dear Duchefs.—So much for the heads of domestics.

and

and after the death of either of them the remainder shall be paid to the survivor during life. I also desire the said Sir George Schuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the like sum of one hundred thousand livres on government or good securities and to pay the interest or dividend to Anthony Seymour my domestic now living in my house at St. Petersburg during his life and after his death to his wife during her life and after the decease of the survivor to transfer the funds or security in which this sum shall be placed to their child my god-son Evelyn Seymour when he shall have attained the age of twenty one years. And the interest on dividend shall be applied in the mean time for his maintenance and education but if the said Evelyn Seymour should happen to die before the age of twenty one years then I give it to the next child of the said Anthony Seymour and of his wife pay-

L

able

able in the same manner as directed for Evelyn Seymour and so on in succession whilst there is a child of the said Anthony Seymour and his wife. And I give to the said Anthony Seymour or to his wife if he shall die before me to be paid in case they or the survivor shall render up my property of Saint Peterburgh unto my Executors and with their consent the sum of two hundred pounds and I order that their wages shall continue to be paid to them until they shall be discharged by my Executors And I give to my servant John Lilly five hundred pounds and I desire the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the sum of one hundred thousand livres to purchase an annuity on the heads of the said John Lilly and his wife and on that of the survivor and to pay it to the said John Lilly during his life and after his death to his wife during her life. I order that this annuity be paid into the hands

hands of the said John Lilly and his wife solely on their respective receipts to serve as a discharge and if either of them should sell or assign this annuity it shall then cease and shall be no longer payable to them but shall then lapse and become part of my personal estate. I desire my said Executors to advance the sum of six hundred pounds to be employed in the purchase of an annuity for the life of Alexander Berry my coachman and to pay it into his own hands during his life and his simple receipt shall be a discharge, and if he sells or assigns it this annuity shall cease and lapse to become part of my personal estate And I desire my said Executors to purchase an annuity of fifty pounds per annum with a part of my estate during the life of Mr. Angel who lives with me as interpreter and to pay it him during his life.

I give and bequeath to Mr. Campbell son of Campbell
Esq of Wales by his deceased wife formerly

merly Miss Meadows daughter of Philip Meadows Esq Deputy Ranger of Richmond Park in the County of Surry the sum of five thousand pounds And I give and bequeath to Mrs. Egerton of Salisbury in the County of Wilts widow a rent of fifty pounds per annum and after her death this rent shall be paid to her brother Lindsey, if living and I require and order my Executors to purchase an annuity of fifty pounds per annum for the said Mrs. Egerton and Mr. Lindsey if they shall be living at the time of my decease and to pay it half yearly to them or him as above but if one of them only shall be alive the same annuity for the life of the party then living shall be paid half yearly to him or her as the case may be And I hereby desire my Executors to call on Mr. Samuel Cox * jeweller of Shoe Lane London and re-

* The sum which *Mr. Cox* owed the Duchess, was *two thousand pounds*. She assisted him with the money in a manner that did her credit.

quire him to pay what he is indebted to me as soon as his circumstances will permit without deranging himself leaving it to his known honor and conscience to pay it without being compelled by any security which he may have given me and which may be found in my possession at my decease, and in case the said Charles Cox should die before he has paid it I make no doubt but his son or his representative will honor the said debt and when it shall be paid I order that it shall be divided in equal shares among the children of the said Mrs. Strong. With respect to all the residue of my estate after payment of my debts funeral expences and legacies and all charges and expences for the execution of my true will I order the said Sir George Schuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to apply this capital and employ it on good security and to employ the interests or dividends thereof if they amount to a

sufficient sum on government or good security in such manner that it be for the life of the said Mr. Charles Meadows and General Meadows and at the decease of one of them one half of the interests shall be employed for the widow of the first dying during her life. and at the decease of the other the other half shall be for the widow of the survivor of the said Charles Meadows and General Meadows and after the decease of one of the said two widows — One half of the principal shall be paid transferred and assigned over to the said Mr. Campbell son of the said Mr. Campbell and of his wife formerly Miss Meadows and after the decease of the other widow the principal of the other half shall be transferred and assigned over to the said Mr. Campbell.

And I hereby revoke all wills by me heretofore made and I constitute the said Sir George Shuckburgh, Sir Richard Heron and George Payne my testamentary Agents and Executors and give
to

to each of them one thousand pounds for the trouble they may have. And I order that in case the said George Payne should go from France to Russia to take the possession and direction of my estate that over and above all the charges and expences he may be put to and over and above the said legacy of one thousand pounds he shall be paid or shall retain the sum of two thousand pounds for his trouble in making that voyage— In Witness whereof I have signed my name on the first fifteen sheets of paper of the sixteen sheets of which this testament of my will is composed and on the sixteenth sheet I have signed my name and affixed my seal of arms this 26th day of October in the year of our Lord 1786.

(Signed) E. Kingston Warth.

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Elizabeth Duchess of Kingston Countess of Warth the testatrix in the presence of us whose names are

(L.S.)

L 4

hereunder

hereunder written and who have
all signed our names in witness
thereof in her presence and in
the presence of each other.

Signed John Gregson, watchmaker to the
King at Paris.

Verbecq jeweller rue St. Honore at
Paris.

Arthaud secretary to the Duchefs of
Kingston.

3d

Piece CODICIL which I desire may be
annexed and looked upon and con-
sidered as making part of my last will
and testament and which I make in
manner following viz. on a slip of
paper annexed with a pin—I give to
my Maitre d'Hotel Mr. John Pickin
the sum of five hundred pounds.

E. KINGSTON WARTH.

4th

Piece A

B

C. Chudleigh Haynes son of the
Reverend Mr. Haynes Curate of St.
Mary's

Mary's Church in the said town of Nottingham.

D Strong eldest son of the Reverend Mr. Strong and of his wife Ann sister of the late John Chudleigh of Chalmington in the county of Dorset.

E

F

G

H

I

K Evelyn Philip Meadows

The enamel cross with its string.
Not to forget to send to Chudleigh at Petersburg the case of China.

On the back is written

Alphabetical Table containing the Letters and the Names to which they refer.

When her Grace (her Highness) wishes to fill up the blanks conformable to the letters, she will then

L 5

please

please to write the names against the letters which will afterwards serve her to find those she wishes to put in the said blanks.

5th Piece MODEL of CODICIL.

I desire that a codicil may be annexed and taken and regarded and making part of my last will and testament, and I make it in manner following, viz.

I give to John Barnard of Pall Mall London Esq. my diamond ring which I had given by my will to Mr. Alexander Ross, who is since dead.

E. KINGSTON WARTH,

this 1st January, 1787.

I give to Mrs. La Touche of Paris the pearl ear-rings and necklace which I usually wear.

E. KINGSTON WARTH

the 10th May 1787.

I give

I give to Mrs. Johnson of Chudleigh in the county of Devon one thousand pounds.

E. KINGSTON WARTH
the 21st August 1787.

I desire to be buried in the following manner, viz. to be embalmed, and if I die in Russia, I most humbly beseech her Imperial Majesty to permit that I may be privately buried in such place and in such manner as it shall please her Majesty to order, wishing and desiring that it may be in the same province where she herself may will my body to repose, when my heart has been with her this long time, but if I should die near England I desire that my body be transported without pomp and buried in the Church of Chudleigh, where I will that a handsome monument be made and erected, for which purpose I order my testamentary executors to lay out the sum of five hundred pounds.

If the plate and the other effects given to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meadows as heirs shall appear and be delivered entirely I desire Mr. Meadows to pay 100l. to Mr. Superieur, her Grace (her Highness) has a legacy to insert for Mr. Pickin.

ATTESTATION to add to the Codicil in case there should be a gift of land.

This Codicil was signed published and declared by the testatrix her Grace (her Highness) the Duchess of Kingston in presence of us who in her presence and in the presence of each other have signed our names as witnesses attesting the same.

CLAUSE of REVOCATION

A and B having behaved essentially ill to me, I revoke the legacies which I gave them by my will and I give and transfer those legacies (or such as your Grace (your Highness) pleases to grant to C and D.

On

On the back is written

MODEL of CODICIL.

N. B. The whole of the gifts by codicil ought to be written in her Grace's (her Highness's) own hand and not by any other person and likewise the orders, such as those of her funeral, if it shall be her Grace's intention that they be inserted in the codicil, they ought to be so done with her own hand.

If her Grace (her Highness) shall make a specific legacy, as of a ring, breast-knot or any other of her personal effects, or of a sum of money, if it be written with her own hand there is no need of witnesses, if any other person writes the legacy her Grace will sign it and there must be two witnesses.

If she gives any land there must be three witnesses, and the attestation must be couched in the terms of the above model.

6th

6th

Piece. Letter to Mr. John Chichester

S I R

IT is now several years since I had the honor to see you at the time of your voyage to Italy I was in hopes of having that pleasure again as being so near when you was at Calais Let me have the pleasure of seeing you at Calais if your affairs will permit or at Paris where I now am— Mr. Weriam whom I have seen at Paris has given me the most agreeable news of your health. Is your son alive? and in what part of the world? I should feel a great pleasure in meeting with him to shew all the regard due to him as your son. If you determine to do me the honour to come and see me at Calais, 'tis a long way by land and short by sea by making the Streights; if you make the journey by land, I wish you would send for our cousins the sisters of the
late

late John Chudleigh to Chalmington near Dorchester and speak to them there are two of them who live in that county in a small retreat, the second has inherited a legacy of 20,000*l.* left her by a relation she lives in tranquillity in that ancient family seat, where she takes a pleasure in educating the children of her deceased sister who married Haynes a clergyman to whom I have given benefices amounting to 6, or 700*l.* per annum, and who has since been married to a Miss Tempest who has had a brother dead lately—This event has caused a large inheritance to fall to the children of the second marriage; added to the desire of seeing you is that of speaking with you on family affairs as likewise with Mr. Prideaux, whom I don't know where to seek for.

Sketch of the letter to the Pope *

* A most curious interlineation in a will! It is a pity, that her Grace (*her Highness*) had not filled up this
 "Sketch of a letter to his Holiness."

Copy

Copy of the Translations made by
Hainj Translator and Interpreter in
execution of an ordinance of the
26th August last, by us collated on
request as set forth in our ordinance
of the 5th Sept. inst. and found con-
formable to the originals of the said
translations at Paris in our Hotel this
9th September 1788.

(Signed)

ANGRAND with PARAPHE.

The originals of the said testament co-
dicils and their covers in the English
language after having been unsealed by
Monf. Denis Francois Angrand D'Al-
leray Knight Count de Maillis Lord of
Bazoches Condé St. Libiere and other
places Lord Patron of Vangizard les
Paris King's Counsellors in his Councils
Honorary in his Court of Parliament
ancient Attorney General of his Ma-
jesty in his great Council Lieutenant
Civil

Civil of the City Viscounty and Provostship of Paris and Counsellor of State in his Hotel, and a copy of the translation which was made thereof by the said Mr. Hainj King's Interpreter in the Hotel and by virtue of the ordinance of the said Lieutenant Civil the whole composing seven pieces with the translation of the English papers were committed by the said Lieutenant Civil to the said Mr. Rouen one of the King's Counsellors Notary at the Chatalet of Paris here undersigned according to the verbal process of the opening translation and commission of the said testament codicils the letters bearing date the commencement of the 26th of August 1788 the day of the death of the Duchefs of Kingston and closed the 9th of this present month of September — The said testament codicils and letters comptrolled and examined at Paris by Lezan this 13th of the said month of September of the said year 1788 all remaining

maining in the possession of the said
Mr. Rouen, Notary.

Sixteen words erased as null.

(L. S.)

ROUEN.

Sealed the day and
year aforefaid

PAULIMUIE.

EXPLANATION of the WILL.

THAT so incongruous a piece as the one now offered to the public, should ever have been executed in the present form, must appear matter of astonishment to every reader who considereth, that in France, as in England, there is an established usage, the conformity to which, can alone give validity to a testament. The surprise will cease, on an explanation of the facts.

Two professional English gentlemen were specially commissioned to repair to Paris, for the purpose of *taking the instructions* of the Duchess of Kingston, relative to the
tes-

testamentary disposal of her property. The compliment allowed them was two hundred pounds each. On their arrival at Paris, that which might have been done in one month, was prolonged to three, the business being occasionally, and by starts, entered into. As far as an English will would operate, the gentlemen were perfectly competent to the task assigned them; but, there was French usage to be considered; for, the Duchess had been denizenized as a French woman, by letters patent so recognizing her. Some assistance was therefore called in, and that not of the ablest kind. Such, however, as it was, the Duchess accepted it; and, the different directions given her Grace, as to the mode of her devising personal, or landed property, were laid down by the French advisers. That they were ignoble characters, is most evident, from the fulsome strain of compliment to which they have descended: To give a lady, who was merely a Duchess *by curtesy*, the title of "HIGHNESS," evinced a degradation of spirit, equal to any subservient crouching.

crouching. The English assistants supplied, as before suggested, the outline of a will, conformable to English law. The blanks were left to be filled up, by the Duchefs, at a future period; and the several *initials* were so many helps to her memory. The concluding parts of this will, as it hath been called, are memorandums of something to be done, preparatory to the execution of a will in every respect legal; and, that such a will was in contemplation, is evident, from Mr. Beardsworth having been employed to attend the return of the Duchefs to Calais, where she was to have executed a regular testament. He did attend, in expectation of her arrival, until he received the advice of her death. Had she lived, a French, a Russian, and an English will, would have been completed. Dying as she did, an *Anglo-Franco* testament appears, like a common place book, or the repository of reveries, to display her whimsicality to the world, under her proper signature.

A D D I T I O N S

BY ANOTHER HAND,

*Communicated to the Publisher since this
Edition was sent to Press.*

Some months previous to her trial, the Duchefs had selected a very fine library of law books for the convenience of her learned advocates, when they met at Kingston House on consultations, which often occurred; and it hapening at two or three of those meetings, that much time was lost in searching for books, to find out reports and cases, it was suggested by *one* of her council, to have a confidential person retained in her house for that business; the Duchefs approved the hint, and wished the gentleman to recommend one in two or three days: he found a fit person, whom he had known some years; he was introduced to the Duchefs, and engaged, on condition of divesting himself of all other concerns, and
fixing

fixing his constant residence at Kingston House; this he agreed to, and his stipend being settled, he received an assurance from her Grace that the engagement was not to be looked on as a full compensation, saying, “ I shall give you great trouble, Sir, and “ if I experience your attachment to me “ under this horrid persecution, be the “ event as it may, you will never have to “ seek a friend, for God knows I have a “ grateful heart.” Tears at the same time flowing with freedom, had the desired effect on the feelings of an entire stranger; the spell fixed him, and Kingston House was an enchanted castle, where he constantly resided during the whole of that mysterious business; a laborious and difficult employment he experienced, which he executed with cheerfulness and sincerity. .

The trial concluded, he received her thanks for his assiduity and attention, with a promise of future patronage so soon as her affairs were properly arranged, and her mind at ease, and was desired by no means to leave Kingston House. By the Duchess's

hasty

hasty departure, and by whispers, understanding she never intended to return, he wished for a settlement: he accordingly applied to her solicitor, Mr. Field, for that purpose; and being informed that her Grace desired his attendance at Calais, he immediately obeyed the summons, set off, and on his arrival there, her Grace received him with the greatest civility, under the pretext of forming some plan for his future good fortune; but as the Devil would have it, her situation was such, that till matters were blown over, she could not open a correspondence to request any favor of her numerous and noble friends; she at the same time mentioned her intention to make an excursion through Germany to Italy; and having experienced his diligent attention under her prosecution, she had a wish to retain him about her person, and take him with her as English secretary, and on her return she would be in a better situation, to solicit the interest of her friends in his favor; until this was completed, so long as she retained her estates, he should experience

her

her protection. Such a fresh assortment of flattery, it may be easily conceived, was inducement sufficient to engage his compliance; he acquiesced, and soon after proceeded with her on the journey: in a few days he experienced in her a disposition of temper the most turbulent; her mind unbent, she now appeared without deception, descending to acts of the greatest meanness whenever opportunities presented to indulge that propensity. However awkward he now found his situation, he had proceeded too far to retreat; he had fellow sufferers, and mutual condolence was the only comfort they experienced. She now assumed an inveterate disposition to insult her attendants on account of their being English, forgetting her resources were the produce of England: if a packet of letters arrived, they underwent the ceremony of a temporary quarantine, after being fumigated; this ridiculous ceremony ended, they were permitted to be opened. Her conduct in this journey excited the resentment of foreigners, wherever she went, particularly in Germany,

meeting

meeting with public insults. In those instances she appeared in her proper element, despising every idea of shame, glorying to combat difficulties created most wantonly by herself, which she determined to surmount at the hazard of fame or pecuniary loss; and what is most remarkable, by such conduct she could rarely return by the road she went, by which means she encountered the greatest dangers and difficulties. Having had her full scope on this excursion, after a long absence, she returned to Paris, staid there some time, and thence went to Calais, the only spot in which she appeared to be happy, where she was superior to every one as to title and fortune, and might truly be stiled their sovereign; and what agreed with her avaritious disposition, a little money would do great things. The Commandant possessed but a trifling inheritance, which, with an official income as trivial, were together insufficient to support the ideas of French dignity: she knew this, and made him a useful minion; he experienced her bounty, for which he granted her every

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privilege she wished: the harbour, and land port gates were opened at her request, a privilege with which no other person, whatever their rank, could be indulged, except a royal messenger. If an Englishman was obnoxious to her, upon her stating to this camblet-coated Commandant, that he was noticing her conduct, he was ordered to depart, on pain of being compelled to quit the town; an instance of this nature happened to a gentleman of character and fortune, now in England; others of less consequence were honored with a file of musqueteers, and forced on board the first ship bound to Dover. Among others, an unfortunate son of a late celebrated English poet, happening to be in Calais when a paragraph disagreeable to her mightiness, appeared in an English newspaper, zealous to establish her tyranny, she reports to her tool, the Commandant, this man to be the author; the consequence was, a file of musqueteers, headed by a town-major, were sent in quest of him: he was soon found, and immediately hurried to gaol,

and

and there confined a close prisoner, where he must have perished, but for the interposition of his countrymen, who applied to the Commandant for leave to send him provision; this was granted, with a restriction, that only one person who was nominated should perform this humane office; but whether his visits were too frequent, or from some secret machination of the mighty Duchess, this person was, by the Commandant's order, taken from his bed by military force at four in the morning, and hurried on board a vessel, which conveyed him to England. As the day advanced, this transaction reached the ears of an English gentleman, then on his travels, who being on particular terms of friendship with the late Duke Fitz-James, then with his regiment at Guines, a few miles from Calais, sent to his Grace an account of this nefarious business; the Duke's remonstrances induced the Commandant to recal from banishment the object of displeasure, and to liberate the son of our poet; yet he was permitted no longer to continue at Calais,

as a body of soldiers escorted him on board a vessel bound for England, in company with a servant of the Duchess, who had incurred the displeasure of his mistress and the Commandant, on the score of inebriety in their presence, on her natal anniversary, and for which offence he had been previously imprisoned four days.

Her English secretary had been a witness to so many base transactions, both abroad and at home, that he was now fully convinced of her inherent turpitude: he had received some indecent insults, particularly when the Commandant or her French friends were present: he reasonably became doubtful of her former protestations in his favor, and embraced an opportunity of applying for pecuniary aid, by way of prelude to a settlement of his account, adding his wish to make his family in England a remittance, who by letter, which he produced, were not in pleasant circumstances. Her answer was, "I will consider of it, my finances are at present scanty." He thought it prudent to decline pressing it till
he

he saw a more favourable opportunity, well knowing the miserly disposition he had to deal with. By the assistance of a friend he was enabled to make a remittance to his family, which circumstance he was soon after obliged to communicate to the Duchess, when her wonted diabolical disposition burst forth, by declaring her utmost vengeance against his friend, who fortunately happened to be above her reach; her machination against him failed; she then paid the money. Her secretary's situation was now alarming; he solicited a settlement of his accounts, without effect; expostulations and interposition of friends were fruitless; she was desired to declare in what instance he had incurred her displeasure. Here justice is due to her memory, her answer was, "I have experienced the utmost fidelity; he is a perfectly honest man." This answer was so astonishing to his friend, that it was thought advisable to wait a little longer her ultimate determination. A fortnight elapsed in silence; a settlement was aerial; she had by stratagem obtained possession of

his vouchers ; it was judged proper to state his accounts in the best manner ; this done, a copy was delivered to her. One meeting appointed, a second, third, and fourth followed, and at last the following most shameful answer was sent ; “ I will have nothing “ to do with his accounts ; he has been an “ expensive burthen to me, and must think “ himself highly recompenced by travel- “ ling with me.” No time was now to be lost ; he was advised to commence a prosecution ; a letter to this purport was sent. At this juncture a rupture between England and France unfortunately took place. The French ambassador arrived from England, and Lord Stormont returning from Paris, shewed that her procrastination had been dictated by subtilty, and that she had played a deep game with her secretary. He was now without protection at Calais, and not entitled to proceed by law against a French subject. She was then naturalized, and, by contrivance with her infamous Commandant, she caused her faithful secretary to be served by the Town Major with a mandate, whereby

whereby he was commanded to return to England "Par ordre du Gouvernement." This order was signed "Porquet," the Commissary of Marine, another of her minions. The words, By order of Government, were too alarming to be disobeyed in an arbitrary kingdom. He was now pronounced a person dangerous to the country; he was insulted with the threats of a prison, and had no alternative but to seek an asylum in his native country, where he returned completely ruined, with the additional mortification of meeting a distressed family to share in his misfortunes; nor could he ever after meet with redress, her managers in England being too far initiated in the sordid views of their infamous mistress.

Previous to the trial the Duchefs had prepared a defence of her own composing, which her council requested to peruse and settle; this she refused; they persisted in their request; her obstinacy very nearly forfeited their support; their intention of declining assistance was held out, and a few days before the trial she reluctantly com-

plied; a consultation was held; her composition was rejected nearly in toto. A new one formed and presented, she artfully gave it her best commendations: this end accomplished, copies were ordered to be transcribed, for the purpose of finishing which, a number of clerks were engaged all night at Kingston House, who were discharged early in the morning. The noise of their going down the stair case alarmed Sir F. Molineux, Black-rod, who slept in an adjoining chamber, it having been deemed necessary by the House of Lords, to have her in safe custody. The noise had disturbed his rest: under an apprehension that her Grace had effected an escape, he jumped out of bed, took the black rod with him, and coming on the stair-case, roared out, "Where is the Duchess?" A house-maid, not knowing who he was, ran from him affrighted, and meeting the person who was returned from letting the men out, told him that there was a tall man, a stranger, on the stair-case in his shirt with a long black thing in his hand, calling for the Duchess
like

like a madman ; and entreated him for God's sake to run up to him ; he did so, and met the baronet habited as described. His fears were soon dispelled ; on being told what occasioned the noise, he was satisfied, and returned immediately to bed.

The copies were collected and given to the Duchess : she presented one to each of her counsel ; the accomplishment of this business gave satisfaction to her friends. The trial commenced ; and when called upon for her defence, she proceeded to read it with the fluency of the most experienced orator ; her law friends were struck with amazement ; in this situation, they were obliged to be the silent auditors of her fraud upon them ; for so prone she was to imposition, however dangerous, that, contrary to all advice, she proceeded on the original defence of her own composition, having suppressed the one which her lawyers had drawn, and which had been approved of on consultation.

The Chancellor's order for the safe and close custody of her person had an

M. 5.

appearance :

appearance of severity ; she was on heavy *bail*, for which reason she would not obey the order, unless *they* chose to render her person—Sir Francis had served the order, and demanded the custody of her person, to be carried to a place fixed on ; this condition she resolutely spurned, treated his commission with defiance and scorn, and insisted that Kingston House should be her residence : “ Here,” said she, “ I will remain, with permission of my bail.”—Sir Francis, well knowing her disposition, declined persisting, took leave and retired.—In the evening a number of men well armed, consisting of messengers, door-keepers, and others his own domestics, arrived at Kingston house as a guard, where they remained day and night till the trial was finished.

The Chancellor’s severity was attributed to a transaction that had happened between his lordship and a Mrs. Gilbert, as follows :—A piece of crown land, at Hyde park-corner, had attracted his Lordship’s notice, in order to build thereon.—To obtain a grant thereof in his own name, he chose to
avoid,

avoid, lest it might create animadversions ; and habits of particular friendship with Mrs. G—— existing, he proposed to present a memorial in her name, which his Lordship would support. The memorial was presented ; and receiving his Lordship's countenance, met with no opposition. The grant obtained was delivered to the lady, whose friendship his Lordship relying on, the necessity of an assignment thereof escaped his attention ; he began and continued building.—This lady being very intimate with the Duchess, to whom the secret was divulged, her Grace congratulated her ; “ Keep in with him,” said she, “ let him complete it, and then you may take possession ; it will be your own ; it is his hobby ; he will bleed freely.”—The lady enjoyed the hint, and when the house was finished, took possession of it, to his Lordship's great surprise :—he avoided to demur ; a few thousands purchased the grant, and possession was given in form.—His Lordship was in years ; the lady easily yielded to
the

the final loss of an old acquaintance.——
 The secret in possession of two such notable
 ladies soon got to his Lordship's knowledge,
 for which transaction it is inferred he en-
 tertained but little feelings for the Duchess's
 disagreeable situation.

E. L. N. I. S.

